

RUGBY UNION
MAKE OR BREAK
TIME FOR THE
ENGLISH CLUB

Redgrave
to ship
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THE TIMES



30p

No. 65,552

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996



Retired early
All-rounder Richard
Cake could have
been the next
CB Fry. Instead
he's joining ICI
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Valerie Grove
Why Nazi hunter
Simon Wiesenthal
will never let
murderers rest
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FREE CONCERT
Take a friend
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Too old to die
Hellraising rocker
Paul Westerberg
explains why he
loves the quiet life
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First attack on Beirut for 14 years

Israeli raid may delay peace talks

By Ross Dunn in Jerusalem and Our Foreign Staff

AT LEAST five people were killed yesterday when Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets into the southern suburbs of Beirut in a revenge attack against Hezbollah guerrillas. It was Israel's first raid on the Lebanese capital for 14 years.

The attacks appear likely to delay the next stage of the Middle East peace process: agreement between Syria and Israel. Though Lebanon is not directly involved in the process, the country has a heavy Syrian military presence. The attacks may well give Damascus the excuse to delay further this next, most difficult, part of the negotiations.

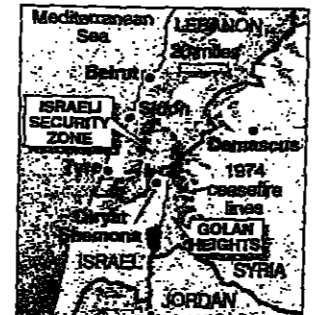
The Clinton Administration last night urged all parties to show restraint but refused to condemn Israel's action. "Fundamentally the problem is created by [Hezbollah's] rocket attacks into northern Israel," Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, said. Those had created a "very dangerous situation" and "the parties ought to recognise that the way to resolve this problem is for those rocket attacks to be stopped".

General Amiram Levine, the top military commander in northern Israel, said that the military operations could last several days.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, ordered the assault after Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel on Tuesday, wounding 36 people, and killed a soldier in the occupied border zone on Wednesday.

Three Israeli Apache helicopter gunships attacked the Shia Muslim suburbs where the Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hezbollah has offices and many of its leaders live, the Lebanese Army said. A 60-year-old man was killed and at least two other civilians were wounded. After a full of several hours, an Israeli Cobra helicopter also fired rockets at an abandoned house in south Lebanon.

The Israelis struck targets in the southern border region, the eastern Bekaa Valley and the fringes of the suburbs of Beirut itself. Two civilians died and four others were wounded when their car was hit by a missile near Sidon. Another civilian was killed



and one was wounded when three missiles hit the village of Shur. Another car was hit in a helicopter raid in the Tyre region, wounding the driver.

A Lebanese army soldier was also killed and three were injured in a separate helicopter raid on an anti-aircraft post on the outskirts of Tyre. Mohsen Dallul, the Defence Minister, said Israeli artillery shelling wounded two more civilians.

Ehud Barak, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and a former military chief of staff, said no area of Lebanon was immune from such attacks so long as Israeli citizens had to take shelter from Hezbollah fighters operating in the south of the country.

Hezbollah leaders threatened to hit back at Israel "and burn the earth" under its feet.

Faris Bouez, Lebanon's Foreign Minister, said he was considering launching a complaint with the UN Security Council after the Israeli attacks. "If Israel means peace then it is destroying it today and it's contributing to more tension in the region," he said.

Syria confirmed its comments to a radio broadcast which said that Israel has misjudged the situation and jeopardised its chances of peace with Damascus. At this stage Israel is counting on Syria's official reaction as being little more than rhetoric.



Seven-year-old pilot Jessica Dubroff and her father, Lloyd, who were killed yesterday

7-year-old girl pilot killed in record bid to cross America

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SEVEN-year-old girl who was attempting to fly across America was killed yesterday when her single-engine Cessna crashed.

Jessica Dubroff died instantly when the plane hit the ground soon after it had taken off in bad weather in Cheyenne, Wyoming, at the start of the second leg of the trip. The Cessna came down in a residential area but no houses were hit. It appeared that the pilot may have steered the aircraft away from homes, so that it crashed in a road.

Jessica's father, Lloyd, a business consultant, also died in one of the Cessna's two rear passenger seats. The other victim was Joe Reid, a flight instructor, who was at Jessica's side in order to meet aviation authority requirements. Solo flight is not permitted by children under the age of 16.

A witness, Ron Nimmo, said that the Cessna was circling but suddenly went into a dive. The victims were taken to hospital but were declared dead on arrival.

The Cessna had taken off in rain, hail and wind. It was not known who was at the controls when the plane crashed. Jessica flew in to Cheyenne on Wednesday evening, executing a fair landing after a wobbly approach. She was greeted by a crowd of schoolchildren who held placards saying "Good Luck, Jessica". On the day before her flight began she said she had slept for only two hours, "because I was so excited".

The record-breaking attempt began on Wednesday afternoon at Half Moon Bay

airfield near San Francisco, California. Jessica had devised her own flight path, charting a 6,500-mile route over the Rockies, the vast Midwestern and the Great Lakes. She intended to land in Falmouth, Massachusetts, where her family once lived.

The Cessna's controls were altered to suit the girl's short limbs. Before starting her journey, Jessica announced: "I'm going to fly until I die." She first rode in a small plane on her sixth birthday when she was allowed to take the controls briefly, and from that day she was hooked. Despite having an instructor at her side, she intended to do all the flying. In the event of Mr Reid having to take the controls in an emergency, Jessica would

There are few sights crueler than loving parents working on their own image of reflected glory. Norris McWhirter on the deadly urge to break records... Page 14

have had to repeat that leg of the journey in order to qualify as a transcontinental pilot.

Child aviation has become increasingly common in America with parents anxious to see their young assume the airs of adulthood, and at the same time perform to the peak of their abilities. The record for youngest airborne navigation across north America is held by nine-year-old Tony Allengren, who achieved the feat in 1983.

The Guinness Book of Records recently stopped publishing child aviation records, for fear of an accident.

Labour the centre party, Blair tells US

By Peter Riddell in New York

LABOUR has become the party of the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority, Tony Blair said yesterday as he sought to show that his party had transformed itself and was ready for office.

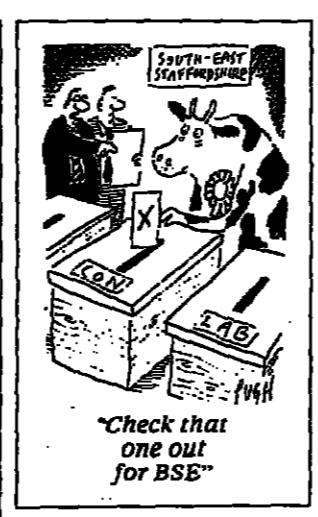
His speech, to 600 businessmen at the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, marked a further big step in his attempt to distance new Labour from its

past. In remarks that will increase the doubts of the Labour Left about his aims, Mr Blair said that Labour had stripped "outdated ideology" from its values and freed the party from "the excess influence of pressure and interest groups". Nowhere in his speech did the word socialism appear.

Instead, he presented new Labour as a "party of the centre as well as the centre-left". He said: "A radical centre is needed to answer the competitive challenges for the economy while enhancing social stability and coherence."

Mr Blair argued that the old solutions of Left and Right no longer applied and he believed that the centre could be fertile ground for radical policies.

"The extremes whether of Left or Right simply will not meet. Continued on page 2, col 5



German airport fire kills 15

At least 15 people were reported killed and more than 100 injured when a fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf international airport, fire fighters and police said.

Many of the casualties were overcome by thick smoke. The terminal was evacuated and the airport closed to all air traffic, police said. Page 11

Separation for Marina Ogilvy

By Alan Hamilton

MARINA MOWATT, daughter of Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy and a cousin of the Queen, has separated from her husband after six years of marriage. It was announced yesterday.

Mrs Mowatt, aged 29 and 30th in line of succession to the throne, married her photographer husband Paul, 32, in 1990 when she was six months pregnant, and amid reports of opposition from her parents.

The couple now have two children, aged six and three.

A statement issued on behalf of the couple by solicitors Max Bittel Greene yesterday blamed the separation on long-standing marital difficulties, and emphasised that no one else was involved. "Both Marina and Paul are very sad that this situation has been reached, and both are now intent that the interests of their



Marina Ogilvy: very sad

children must be paramount. This is a private matter and, for the sake of the children, Marina and Paul wish to avoid unnecessary publicity which might upset the children. For this reason, no further statements will be issued."

A spokesman for Mrs Mowatt's parents said last night that Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus were sad to learn of what had happened. "They will of course do everything they can to help their daughter and her young family."

Egypt seizes Cunard liner that hit reef

By Jonathan Prynne, Transport Correspondent

THE Egyptian Government has impounded the Royal Viking Sun luxury cruise liner in the Red Sea port of Sharm el-Sheikh as a bargaining counter in its dispute with Cunard over damage to a protected coral reef.

The public prosecution office in Cairo confirmed yesterday that the 37,845 tonne ship will not be allowed to leave Egyptian waters until the company has met its demands for \$23 million (£16 million) compensation.

The ship was crippled last Thursday when she struck a reef near the island of Tiran while negotiating the narrow Gulf of Aqaba, and is now anchored off Sharm el-Sheikh.

Divers from the Egyptian environmental protection agency have reported severe damage to the reef, which forms part of the protected Ras Mohamed marine national park. Cunard is contesting the

cost of the damage, which greatly exceeds previous fines against owners of boats that have damaged the coral. The heaviest such fine before the Royal Viking Sun accident was about £14,000.

Bill Spears, a Cunard spokesman, said that lawyers representing the company's insurers would meet Egyptian Government officials at the weekend to sort out the dispute. A senior Cunard source said he believed the company's insurers would be able to negotiate the Egyptian authorities' figure down.

The company is flying its own diver and a coral expert out to assess the damage.

The 500 passengers, including 54 Britons, who were on board the Royal Viking Sun when she hit the reef were flown home at the weekend and have been offered a 14-day cruise on other ships as compensation.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Forty pages of men's fashion, in the Magazine

Paul Heiney's new column for cooks, in Weekend

Seven days of TV and radio, in Vision

PLUS
Weekend Money, Car 96 and 1015 for young Times readers



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COMMON

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Labour move to lure businessmen into classrooms 'dangerously naive'

Teachers sceptical over Dad's Army school invasion

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR moves to attract middle-aged businessmen into teaching were criticised by the profession yesterday for failing to tackle an impending recruitment crisis.

Heads teachers and union leaders doubted that older people would return to the classroom in sufficient numbers to dent the requirement for 30,000 new teachers a year by the end of the century. The "Dad's Army" scheme was given a cool reception at its launch at the annual conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary and architect of the scheme, appeared ready to backtrack after his speech to the conference in Glasgow. "The great attraction of the idea is that if it does not work, you have lost

nothing. If it does not work, so be it." He said mid-career transfers from business and industry would go hand-in-hand with incentives for graduates to enter teaching as well as extra pay for proven "super teachers". He told the conference: "It is a nice idea that those who have made their mind somewhere else will want then to give their time to teaching. I am assured by some of them they do."

But Professor John Howson, of Oxford Brookes University, who has carried out a series of studies on teacher employment, said the proposals were "dangerously naive". Little more than half of the 800 people aged 45 or more who trained to be teachers in 1993 ended up in the profession. "Recruitment for secondary schools hit the buffers two years ago," Professor Howson

said. "What the profession actually needs is more people in their twenties, but if new graduates find teaching unattractive, what kind of people are we going to get transferring in their forties?"

Mr Blunkett said yesterday that sabbaticals of up to a year for long-serving teachers would be another incentive to enter teaching under a Labour government. The break could be used by teachers after 15 years' service, to spend time in industry or research. Last night it was claimed this could cost at least £300 million a year for supply cover if all 18,000 teachers with 15 years' service opted for a sabbatical.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, welcomed the idea of sabbaticals but did not think the Dad's Army scheme would work. "Those people will be aware that youngsters of today are very different from what they were 30 years ago. They are less respectful of authority and to be a teacher these days you have to have a lot of vigour. It would be a very stiff challenge for them."

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads' Association, said: "We want the best young graduates coming into the profession. Bringing in 55-year-olds from industry will not solve the huge teacher shortage coming in the next two or three years."

Mr Dunford said 50,000 new teachers would be needed every year by the turn of the century. The cost of training these people would be far better invested attracting and training graduates to spend a lifetime in teaching, he said.

James Paice, a junior Education and Employment Minister, said Mr Blunkett's scheme for a sabbatical for long-serving teachers would cost the country £5 billion if every eligible teacher took a year off. A Labour spokesman said, however, that sabbaticals would be gradually phased in with industry contributing some of the cost.



Nigel de Gruchy, left, and David Blunkett at the union's conference in Glasgow

Child abusers beat ban to work as supply staff

By DAVID CHARTER

CHILD abusers banned from teaching are being allowed back into schools by unscrupulous teacher supply agencies, a classroom union said yesterday.

Tight new regulations are required to stop agency teachers on a government blacklist from sidestepping screening checks, delegates at the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers annual conference, which is taking place in Glasgow, were told.

A survey by the union found that one in four head teachers did not know whether security checks had been made on supply teachers sent to them by agencies. In one instance, a teacher who had been sacked and placed on the Department for Education's blacklist, known as List 99, was sent back to a primary school by an agency. Local authorities are

legally obliged to check the list and criminal records of all teachers but corner-cutting agencies can avoid the checks if they hire teachers on a self-employed basis.

Martin Johnson, a supply teacher in Lewisham, south-east London, said: "One of our members found someone teaching in a primary school he knew had been forced to resign from another school and put on List 99. The Government had made the decision he was not fit to teach and yet the man was back in the classroom. The majority of people on List 99 have a question mark about abuse of children."

He said that in another case, Manchester education authority had to write to schools warning that an agency representative was himself on List 99.

The union called for regulations to require the checks which it claimed were routine-

ly ignored by some agencies. Screening was said to be often overlooked for the hundreds of supply teachers from Australia and New Zealand on agency books.

Delegates also said the growing use of agency teachers would drive down standards.

Mr Johnson said: "Pupils in one school had 13 science teachers on a most, most of them from abroad, with no knowledge of the national curriculum."

Brian Garvey, a member of the union's national executive from Yorkshire, said: "This Government complains about 15,000 unsuitable teachers in schools on the one hand, and yet fully endorses this casualisation of the teaching profession."

"This drives down teacher quality by employing anyone from off the streets anywhere in the world," Mr Garvey said.

Judge says jailing of patient was absurd

An Old Bailey judge said yesterday it was "absurd" for a psychiatrist to refuse to allow a second medical opinion on a suicidal mental patient, which resulted in him being sent to prison instead of hospital.

Sydney McBride, 49, who has a history of severe depression, had tried to burn himself to death and had admitted arson. He was sentenced to four years. Judge Laughton, QC, told him: "I very much regret that I cannot order a disposal which would more closely address your need for treatment but because of the attitude of a doctor I am unable to do so." Dr David Somekh surprised the probation service and defence lawyers by the move.

Bridgewater trial doubts

A second juror in the Carl Bridgewater trial said yesterday that she believed the four men convicted of the killing were innocent. Lucinda Graham is to support the campaign to have the case sent back to the Court of Appeal. Miss Graham, the youngest member of the jury in 1979, said she had doubts from the start. Michael Hickey, his cousin Vincent Hickey and James Robinson were convicted largely on a confession by Patrick Molloy.

Leeds killing denied

A young man arrested for the murder last weekend of a pensioner who was attacked in his car as he stopped to ask directions, denied in court yesterday that he was the killer. Clive Jones, 25, was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the death last Saturday of Steven Popovic, 74, who was prominent in the Serb community in the Chapeltown district of Leeds. Mr Jones, who lives in Gipton, West Yorkshire, was remanded in custody for a week.

Nursing staff arrested

A female nurse and a male nursing auxiliary have been arrested in connection with "serious allegations" after an internal inquiry at Bolton General Hospital. John Pettigrew, director of nursing, said: "The allegations relate to the care of three male patients on one of the psychiatric wards." The arrests come 18 months after a separate inquiry into the abuse of psychiatric patients resulted in seven nurses being suspended and three later sacked.

Canterbury tails off

Canterbury Cathedral fell in popularity in the year it introduced admission charges. The number of visitors fell to 1.9 million, down from 2.25 million the year before. A charge of £2 for adults and £1 for children, the unemployed and pensioners was introduced last June. Officials said the hot summer, parking problems and French strikes affected the number, which equalled that of visitors to St Paul's in London.

Suspect in Philippines

The former lodger of a missing Essex businessman and his wife has been arrested in the Philippines. Geoffrey Paston was arrested at a nightclub he runs in the city of Tacloban by immigration officials, accompanied by two officers from Essex Police. Mr Paston is wanted for questioning about the disappearance of David Sims, 51, from Southend, and China Rose, 31, his Filipina wife, who have not been seen since the early months of 1993.

City wins £15m grant

The Arts Council of England awarded a National Lottery grant of £15 million towards the upgrading of the Victoria Concert Hall and the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent. The improvements are part of the council's plan to create a "cultural quarter" in the city, which will include a touring venue for ballet, drama, opera and music theatre. Seventy-four grants totalling £28.16 million were distributed yesterday.

First taste of summer

The first English strawberries of the summer of 1996 are on their way to the shops this weekend, earlier than ever before. Despite the late spring, the latest improvements in growing techniques have urged the crop forward by at least ten days. Vernon Emery, of Warsash, Hampshire, gave his plants 15 minutes of artificial light each hour from 11pm until 7am from mid-January, triggering the growth that produces earlier and larger fruit.

Mother rescues children

A mother plucked her two children and their friend to safety after driving onto a rail crossing and two trains approached from opposite directions. Kim Turner, 32, from Leonfield, East Yorkshire, had edged onto Scarborough crossing near Beverley although warning lights were flashing. She grabbed the children and leapt from the car, which was badly damaged as it was hit by one of the Sprinter trains.

Oasis cut concert

Extra police were called in yesterday after the rock band Oasis walked out abruptly during a concert in Canada, sparking fears of a riot by thousands of angry fans. The concert had just begun at the Coliseum in Vancouver when the band suddenly stopped playing and left the stage, apparently because someone had thrown a shoe onstage. Sergeant Bob Chapman of the city police said: "There were no reports of injuries."

Labour 'at centre'

Continued from page 1

the real challenges. A modern party must be in the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority."

In the past Mr Blair has presented new Labour as being in the centre-left, so his reference to the centre is a further step in the repositioning of the party, in line with his claims that Labour is the party of One Nation.

Mr Blair argued that the role of "a modern centre and centre-left government is to equip people and business for change, to enable and empower, not to direct and control. A government of the radical centre, offering real and dynamic change but doing it from a centre-ground position, taking people with us, recognising that unless we combine change with equity, change will not come."

Mr Blair backed his claim both by referring to changes in the structure of the Labour Party itself and in its policies, mentioning in particular its intention to keep public spending under tight control while making a top priority of lowering tax at the bottom end of the scale.

He argued that while the values and priorities of the

main parties would continue to differ, they would draw from the same "pot of policy prescriptions". Tax reform, he said, could be a message of both Left and Right, as could welfare reform.

In his speech, Mr Blair emphasised that it was absurd to imagine that, for Britain, "there is a choice between the relationship with Europe and that with America. On the contrary, the real value to the US of the British role in Europe lies in the influence we can and will exert to help keep Europe firmly linked to the US in defence, outward-looking, open to trade and investment, and open also to the inclusion of the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe."

He spoke of his strong belief in free-trade policies, calling for further action to deal with barriers to trade and investment across the Atlantic.

The Labour leader reinforced his claims to a new approach by saying that new Labour accepted many of the changes brought in in the 1980s under Conservative governments which were needed to improve competitiveness and encourage enterprise.

Irritated Tories, page 9

Social worker backtracks on drugs

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE social work director who caused a storm of protest by describing Ecstasy as safer than aspirin yesterday declared drug misuse "illegal and unsafe".

Mary Hartnoll's original comments were described as "unwise" by senior officials at Glasgow City Council yesterday. The council has called an emergency meeting.

Miss Hartnoll, 55, caused outrage among drug rehabilitation workers with an internal memo to the chief executive of the council describing Ecstasy as "relatively safe". She also said in the memo that the risk of dying from a normal dose of aspirin was "very much greater" than that of dying from Ecstasy.

She had been responding to a headline approach on drugs by the council's licensing board, and her opinions appeared to contradict the work

being done by the board. Yesterday, however, Miss Hartnoll said: "I would never condone the taking of Ecstasy or any illegal drug."

The council moved to limit the damage to its image by declaring its commitment to combat the drugs threat in the city. Drug abuse claims the lives of about 100 young people in Glasgow every year.

Robert Gould, leader of the council, said: "Ecstasy is not a relatively safe drug." He said, however, that he would not be calling for Miss Hartnoll's resignation and that she retained the confidence of the council.

Mr Gould said he had sympathy for views of the father of Leah Betts, the teenager who died after taking Ecstasy. Paul Betts said that Miss Hartnoll's remarks were "totally irresponsible".

Mr Gould said yesterday:



Hartnoll: started her £76,000 post recently

"If I were Leah Betts's father or mother I would probably be talking the same way but if you look at the detail of what is being said, Mary Hartnoll is probably not far off the mark."

The deputy leader of the Council, Gordon MacDiarmid, said Miss Hartnoll's statement was "very irresponsible in relation to public

perception but it was not an irresponsible statement to make in an internal memo" given its context and its audience.

Miss Hartnoll, who took up her £76,776 a year council post recently, said: "I am surprised and disappointed that one sentence in an internal memo has been so widely misinterpreted and taken out of context."

"The social work department, under my leadership, has played a full and active part in the Greater Glasgow Drugs Action Team, whose first priority is to turn the tide of public opinion against illicit drug-taking and to make it socially unacceptable, an aim I fully endorse."

She added later: "My view is that there is no such thing as a safe drug, but the risk of death from Ecstasy is perhaps not that high, although there are a lot of other health risks involved."

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Ogilvys' daughter leaves husband Hello! casts evil spell on another 'happy' marriage

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE curse of *Hello!* has struck again. Paul and Marina Mowatt are the latest in a procession of high-profile couples to have publicly pledged their troth and their boundless happiness in the pages of the mass-circulation weekly, only to find their marriage subsequently in tatters. The Duke and Duchess of York tried it once and it did them no good at all.

Marina Ogilvy, daughter of Sir Angus Ogilvy and Princess Alexandra, was 24 and 24th in line to the throne when, in 1989, she found herself pregnant by her boyfriend Paul Mowatt, a young photographer with no shred of royal connection.

They are the latest in a long line of royal couples to face a failed marriage. They have witnessed the separation of the Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York.

The Times understands that yesterday's statement by solicitors was issued to pre-empt a Sunday newspaper, which had intended to publish details of the couple's marriage breakdown this weekend.

Shortly after her pregnancy



Paul Mowatt: said to have been paid £100,000

was confirmed, Marina sold her story to the now-defunct *Today* newspaper, claiming that her parents were so horrified by the prospect of the first illegitimate royal birth this century that they had forced her into the choice of abortion or shotgun marriage.

Marina, in the event, chose marriage. But the style of the ceremony was far removed from that of her parents in Westminster Abbey. Paul and

Marina were married at St Andrew's Church, in Ham, southwest London, before a congregation of 30, among whom there were no royal family members other than the bride's parents. The bride wore black.

Their daughter was born and named Zenouska, a name her parents confessed they had made up during a game of Scrabble. The couple seemed happy, and Marina told newspapers how much better life was outside the Royal Family. She even made sympathetic noises towards the Prince and Princess of Wales when their formal separation was announced in 1992, saying how well she understood the pressures of life in the royal goldfish bowl.

But all was not well on Marina's home front. Even *Hello!*, which prefers its domestic horizons to be entirely unclouded, reported in its November 1992 interview with the couple that a serious rift remained between them and Marina's parents. In two years, Zenouska had seen her grandparents for a total of 15 minutes, despite living in a semi in Teddington, only ten minutes' drive from Princess Alexandra's home at Thatched House Lodge in Richmond



Marina Mowatt leaving her home in Teddington, southwest London, yesterday with her son Christian

Park. When a second child, Christian, was born in 1993, there appeared to be something of a family reconciliation. Paul Mowatt, who had been unwelcome in the Ogilvy family home since the marriage, was received into the fold. Sir Angus Ogilvy and Princess Alexandra attended a joint christening of their two grandchildren in the Chapel Royal of St James's Palace,

lent for the occasion by the Queen.

But even that event was not without its repercussions. Paul, who had already incurred royal displeasure for selling photographs of his wife wearing thigh-length boots and a tinsel crown and brandishing a gun while corgis snapped at her feet, dug himself deeper into royal opprobrium for selling the story

and pictures of the christening to *Hello!* for a reputed £100,000.

The couple, who have recently been living together in a cottage in Yorkshire, have been obliged throughout their short married life to make a living as best they can. Three years ago, Marina further distanced herself from the Royal Family by agreeing to write a regular column for the

Sunday Express. It was not a success, and the House of Windsor does not like its members, even those in the lower twenties of the succession table, to muddy their hands with rough trade.

Marina's belief that the secret of happiness lay in escape under the Windsor wire to the fresh and airy world outside has, sadly, not lived up to expectations.

Two held on killing ordered by a fax

BY KATE ALDERSON

POLICE hunting the killers of an accountant shot four years ago on the orders of an American millionaire have arrested two men.

David Wilson, 47, was murdered by two hooded men at his home in Withnell, Lancashire, in March 1992. Mr Wilson, who was married with two daughters, had become involved in a multi-million-dollar cigarette deal with Michael Austin, a wealthy New York fraudster.

Austin, 40, ordered the execution of Mr Wilson by fax from New York after the accountant began to threaten the success of his empire. He was extradited from the United States and convicted of murder at Carlisle Crown Court last year. He was sentenced to life imprisonment but has appealed.

On Wednesday night two men, both English and in their thirties, were arrested at their homes by a team of Lancashire detectives helped by the Metropolitan Police and the Kent Constabulary. The men, one from Northfleet, Kent, and the other from south London, were taken to Lancashire for questioning.

Superintendent Bob Denmark, who led the international search for the killers, said: "These arrests were the logical conclusion of four years of investigations. I anticipate charges connected with the killing of David Wilson will be brought."

Tory MP's lost sleep costs royal hall £1,600

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A COMPLAINT by the Conservative MP Nicholas Winterton that loud music from a band next door to his London flat stopped him sleeping cost the Royal Horticultural Halls a £1,000 fine yesterday for noise pollution.

The thumping beat from an awards function for *The Grocer* magazine at the halls in Westminster was "terribly loud", Mr Winterton, MP for Macclesfield, told council officers, Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court heard.

Through its managing director, René Dee, the Royal Horticultural Halls Ltd admitted failing to comply with a notice under the 1974 Control of Pollution Act to abate a noise nuisance. The company was also ordered to pay £626 costs.

Alex Cranbrook, for Westminster council, said the notice had been served after complaints from residents of flats next to the halls, where a concert was taking place. Later, Mr Winterton, 58, who has a flat in the same block, complained and officers who had gone to his address were able to hear the music before midnight even with the windows closed.

After hearing the halls were 62 years old and not properly sound-proofed, Ros Keating, a magistrate, commented: "In those years, we didn't have the sort of music we have now."

Mr Dee told the court that the company had now stopped taking bookings for music and dancing functions.



Adams: "Residents might watch for novelty value"

Residents tune in to real-life crime

BY PAUL WILKINSON

VIEWERS on a crime-ridden estate in South Yorkshire who are bored with the usual stuff on television can switch to real-life sex, drugs and violence on their own doorsteps.

A £25,000 closed-circuit system being installed in council tower blocks in Doncaster is linked directly to the TV sets of residents. Council officials hope the project will turn the occupants of 450 flats into their own security guards and cut the rising level of trouble at the 30-year-old St James Street estate. Similar schemes in Camden, north London, and Hartlepool, Teesside, achieved dramatic cuts in vandalism and thefts.

Terry Adams, tenants' association chairman on the estate, said: "We have been plagued with problems for years and this means people will be able to see what is happening and tell the police. Car thefts and break-ins in the parking areas have been a problem but one of the main sources of trouble

is when gangs get inside the blocks.

"Because the lobbies are secluded there have been gangs of boys and girls, drinking, glue-sniffing, taking drugs and having sex. With the cameras we will be able to see what happens and telephone for the police without fear of intimidation. Residents might even tune in for the novelty value."

Doncaster council, which shares the installation and running costs with South Yorkshire Police, said the cameras would not see inside individual homes. "The system will not be linked either to local police or our own central control room but directly into spare channels on the residents' TVs through communal aerials."

Bev Marshall, the council housing chairman, said: "This system will enhance the security arrangements and hopefully reduce the levels of nuisance and crime, allowing people to use the communal areas without fear."

Hardman Vinnie sees red at Dutch order of the boot

BY RICHARD DUCE

VINNIE JONES, English football's most notorious exponent of the late tackle, is no stranger to the red card but none has come swifter than his embarrassing exit yesterday from an international conference on fair play in sport.

Jones would probably admit his inclusion as a speaker at the Amsterdam conference had smacked of the bizarre. But he was not happy to be snubbed by officials who insisted his name was not on the guest list.

Exit Jones to his hotel room and an early bath while he waited for an explanation from the organisers of the conference, sponsored by the Dutch Government. The organisers insisted Jones's exclusion had nothing to do with his hardman reputation. He had invited only to take part last night in a television recording with his fellow



Jones: excluded from conference on fair play

professional Eric Cantona and the Formula One drivers Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher, to be shown across Europe today.

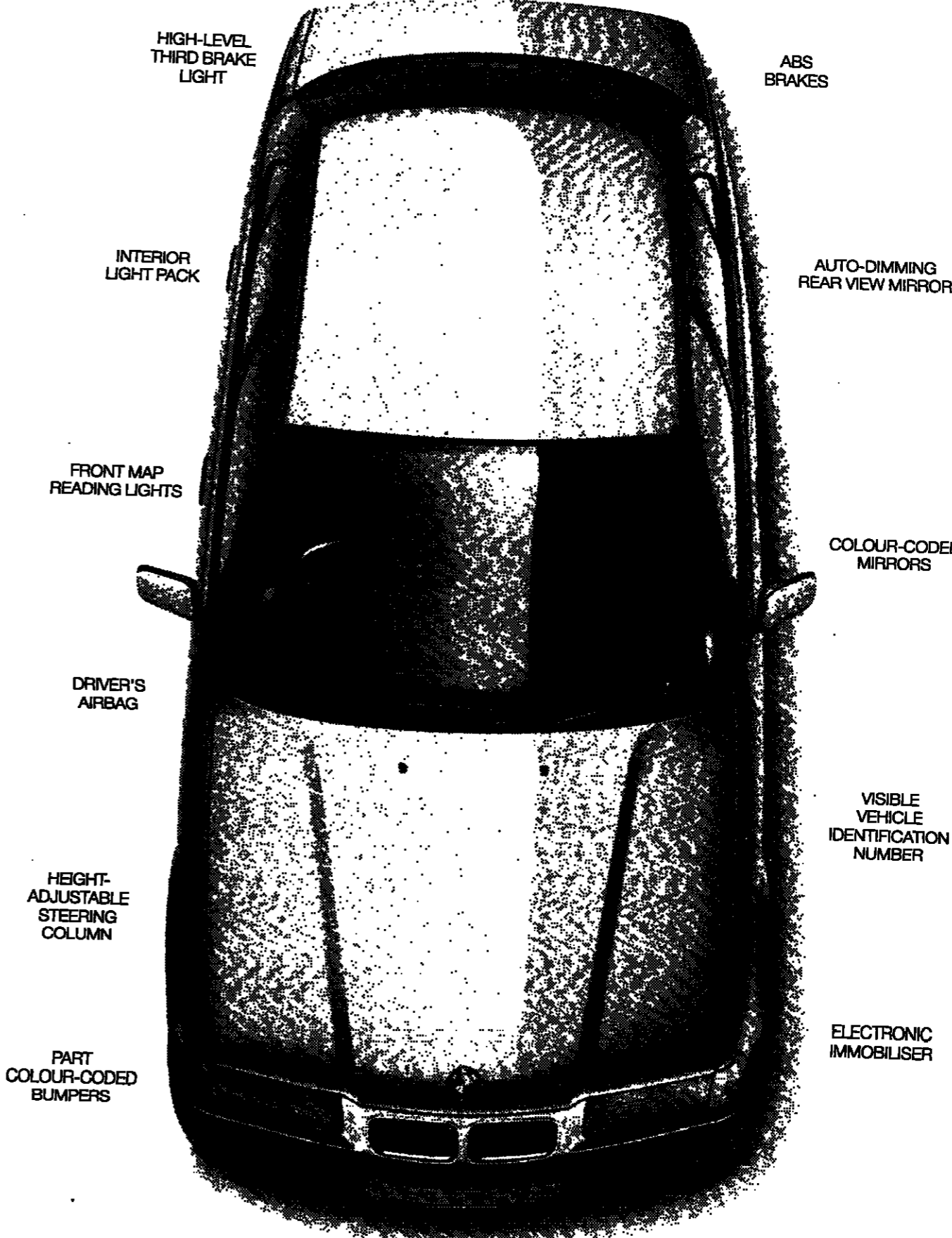
Steve Davies, Jones's agent, was unconvinced and flourished an invitation from Erika Terpstra, the Dutch Sports Minister and former

Olympic swimmer. It stated: "It is my great pleasure and honour to invite you to the round-table conference. Your presence will underline the importance of the object of the meeting."

Jones said his exclusion was a "ridiculous cock-up. If you want to know about coal, ask the people who are digging it out."

The Wimbledon player insists he has mellowed despite being sent off recently for fouling the Chelsea footballer Ruud Gullit, whom he called a "speaking pig". "When I started playing I was only 20. Now I am older and more educated. We all learn by our mistakes."

Jones has been sent off 12 times in his career, more than any other English league footballer, and attracted fines totalling more than £26,000. Gullit has been declared European ambassador for sport, fair play and tolerance — a title that Jones said was well-deserved.



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Costs grow over plan to curb BSE

Cattle slaughter may be doubled to 30,000 a week

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to kill up to 30,000 cattle a week are to be announced by the Government next week in the first stage of a rescue package for the beef industry, it emerged yesterday. That is double the number initially thought necessary under last week's Luxembourg agreement with the European Union to keep all cattle older than 30 months out of the food chain.

Investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Farmers' Union has revealed that the number of steers and heifers, prime beef cattle, which are older than 30 months is much higher than was thought. This means the Government will not be able to limit the destruction to the 15,000 normally slaughtered every week at the end of their productive life.

Thousands of prime cattle just over 30 months old will also have to be destroyed because they cannot now be used for food. Younger animals are extremely unlikely to be infected with BSE, the "mad cow" disease.

Richard Macdonald, the NFU's director-general-designate, said: "It is impossible to

determine exactly how many cattle fall into what we are calling this 30-plus category, but it could be around 250,000 a year — far more than we thought."

These animals include cattle reared for export which are slaughtered at a later age to satisfy foreign demand for heavier carcasses. Some of the best beef also comes from slow-maturing breeds fed almost entirely on grass and often killed as late as 36 months. Meat from these animals is now banned if they are older than 30 months.

Farmers say the Ministry of Agriculture has made problems worse by using tooth development as the test of cattle age. Any animal showing more than one pair of incisor teeth is deemed to be older than 30 months, but farmers say a second set of incisors often appears in heifers younger than that. Proving an animal's real age can be difficult because until very recently there was no systematic recording of the birth dates of heifers. The Ministry says it is trying to come up with a solution.

The NFU has told the

ministry that it calculates there is now a backlog of up to 100,000 old cows and a further 100,000 younger animals more than 30 months old awaiting slaughter on farms. Clearing this backlog could mean destroying as many as 30,000 animals a week for up to six months.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, could announce the cull next Tuesday, according to Whitehall sources, and the first cattle could be slaughtered before the end of the month.

Details of the plan are still being finalised. These include levels of compensation and the logistics — there is no shortage of slaughter capacity but the nine licensed livestock incinerators cannot handle more than 3,000 whole carcasses a week. One idea under discussion is that the heads, backbone and offal would be incinerated. The rest of the carcasses would be boiled down by rendering plants which specialise in processing animal waste. The residue could then be incinerated or buried in special landfill sites. Mr Macdonald said: "The logistics of the operation are a



An animal rights activist at the gate of the Aalten slaughterhouse, where the Netherlands calf cull began

huge problem. There will be a tremendous catch-up job. Some sort of queuing or rationing system may have to be introduced to allow for a phased destruction of the animals."

The NFU said it was pressing for extra compensation for farmers who would lose prime beef cattle. Under the Luxembourg deal, farmers would get

an average of about £480 per animal, a figure based on the market rate for an old and barren cow. Prime beef animals can be worth more than £1,000 each.

Extra compensation would create difficulties for the Treasury. The EU agreed last week to pay 70 per cent of compensation at a rate of £480 an animal, but it is understood

that any compensation above that rate would have to come entirely out of the Government's pocket.

In addition to the destruction of animals over 30 months old, the Government is also committed to produce proposals by the end of this month for a more selective cull of cattle and/or herds identified as being at the most risk of

developing BSE. There is no indication yet how many animals this might involve.

The NFU is considering a legal challenge to the EU's worldwide ban on £600 million, on the ground that it is disproportionate to the scientific evidence, but will make no legal move for three weeks to give the EU more time to review the ban.

Protests greet cull of calves in Holland

ANIMAL rights activists shouted "murderers" yesterday at the beginning of the mass destruction of 64,000 British calves in the Netherlands.

Escorted by police vehicles, four trucks transported the first load to the Kropveld-Schipstal slaughterhouse in Aalten, where up to 2,000 a day will be killed for up to six weeks. Animal rights and vegetarian groups laid wreaths against the walls.

The drastic mass slaughter was announced last month by the Dutch Agriculture Ministry, after British scientists said there was a possible link between mad cow disease and deaths from the human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Syndrome.

In France, a government investigation reported six cases of fraud over the origin of beef imported into France in the last two weeks. In two cases out of 2,000 checked, British meat imported before a French ban was on sale labelled as French meat. Four others involved Dutch and German meat which was sold as French, said junior finance minister Yves Galland, in a statement on the results of his ministry's investigation. Legal proceedings had been launched in all six cases, he said.

France was the first country to suspend imports of British beef, on March 21.

Psychological Society

Degree grading 'biased and open to abuse'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

UNIVERSITY examiners are assessing students in a way that is "unreliable, inconsistent, biased and open to frequent abuse", the president of the British Psychological Society said yesterday.

Professor Stephen Newstead said only a radical overhaul would prevent the degree system falling into disrepute. One essay, given to 14 different examiners, received marks ranging from a First to a borderline Lower Second or Third-class degree.

Professor Newstead, of Plymouth University, said examiners were influenced by their personal like or dislike of students whose work they were marking. But his experiment had shown that, even without knowing the candidate, the marks awarded for the same piece of work could differ by 70 per cent.

National examinations were needed as part of all university degrees to halt the erosion of faith in institutions that produce too many good results, Professor Newstead said. He feared Britain could follow the United States, where many qualifications are regarded with scepticism by employers and academics.

"Students don't always get the degree they deserve," he said at the society's annual conference in Brighton. "The system is undermined if degrees don't mean the same thing in different institutions. The reputation of British higher education is potentially undermined." Professor Newstead doubted that a First

Class degree meant the same now as it did 10 or 20 years ago. "In the past 15 years there has been an inexorable increase in the proportion of Firsts from 6 per cent to 10 per cent. It could be that students are getting better, or that teaching methods have improved to such an extent that students are performing much better than their counterparts in the past. But even if this is the case, it does not explain why the proportion of good degrees has gone up so much at a time when the participation rate has increased so dramatically."

About 30 per cent of 18-year-olds enter higher education, compared with only 5 per cent some 20 years ago. "It is difficult to believe that the proportion of these modern students who merit a good degree is so much higher than the proportion of their more highly selected predecessors."

There are wide variations in the number of good degrees awarded in different disciplines, with philosophy, history, sociology and English students getting better awards than accountancy, mathematics, education and law. Professor Newstead said there was also evidence of sex bias in marking, with women tending to get fewer Firsts and Thirds than men, particularly at Oxford and Cambridge.

Professor Newstead called for academics to be banned from assessing projects which they have supervised, as already happens with PhD theses.

Computers 'strike fear into young'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

YOUNG computer-users, often presumed by their parents to have been born to wander cyberspace, are more intimidated by new technology than older generations, researchers have found.

According to a study by Strathclyde University, those in their thirties are eager to learn computer skills and feel confident about their ability.

Despite being brought up on computers, many young people can feel fearful at the thought of using them. Some even develop a condition known in America as "computer phobia", experiencing dizziness and nausea when surrounded by them and a wish to smash the machine.

Nicholas Bozionelos, a psychologist, told the British Psychological Society conference that he had compared a group brought up in the 1970s — 165 trainees in management, aged from 30 to 43 — with a group brought

up in the computer-dominated 1980s — 47 undergraduates aged from 18 to 23. Younger people were 95 per cent more likely to be apprehensive about computers. Women were twice as likely to worry about computers as men. A larger experiment involving 440 people shows similar initial findings.

"The findings are astonishing. If they are substantiated, it suggests that the younger generation may avoid computers, may underperform and may even sabotage new computers in the workplace," Mr Bozionelos said.

One theory is that younger people are overwhelmed by the amount of computer technology available and fear they will have to learn all of it to get through life. The young also associated computers with mathematics, which they found difficult at school. People in their thirties and forties know they only had to learn a few computer applications to help them at work.

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Union accuses Barclays of putting workers at risk by not revealing threat from blackmailer

Police comb bank records for clue to parcel bomber

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
AND STEWART TENDLER

LISTS of disgruntled customers and former staff were being checked by police last night in the search for the Barclays bomber.

The bank confirmed it had handed over lists of aggrieved clients, including failed businessmen who blame the collapse of their firms on the bank. Detectives believe the bomber could be a businessman with a military or engineering background, or a bank employee who was sacked or made redundant.

The police and bank have placed newspaper advertisements appealing for the bomber to get in contact. This month he wrote to the *Daily Mail* threatening more attacks and claimed he was part of a group of disaffected bank victims.

In the past 16 months the bomber, who calls himself Mardi Gra, has made threats and sent or planted about 25 home-made devices aimed at Barclays and Barclaycard. Three have gone off, and one clerk suffered minor injuries.

A spokesman for the bank said: "We are co-operating with police and helping them in any way we can. I am sure people will understand it is important this man is caught. We have talked to the police about a number of possible lines of inquiry."

The bank was accused by unions yesterday of putting

14 MONTHS OF ATTACKS

December 5, 1994: Bank clerk injured by letter bomb at Hampstead High Street. Five more bombs sent same day to other west London branches. Addressed with a label saying *Welcome to the Mardi Gra Experience*.

December 6: Bomber wrote to Barclaycard headquarters in Northampton with first demand for money. Bank was told to communicate through the personal columns of *The Daily Telegraph* using the codename Mardi Gra. He always responded with untraceable letters.

May 1995: Another black-mail demand as devices were sent to people or companies working for Barclaycard and Barclays. June 19: Barclaycard security official received device made with shotgun cartridge. July: Some devices posted

to home addresses and others put through the letterboxes of companies in an arc south of London from Kent to Surrey including a greengrocer and a merchant builder. Another appeal put out for the bomber to get in contact.

August: Another written demand from the bomber. September: Devices left in telephone boxes near Barclays branches in west London. One device left in a case outside a branch at Hayes was thrown into the road and exploded as car drove over it.

January: More devices left outside branches including one in Ealing, west London. Others planted in south London. In the past two months, another advertisement has been placed by the bank seeking contact with bomber, who threatened more attacks.

it has enemies. Banks are highly unpopular and they are an easy target.

Andrew Buxton, the bank's chairman, said staff had received "regular warnings about letter bombs and raids and keeping vigilant generally. You have to appreciate that this is against the background of a business that has a raid of some sort once a week, and a raid that might involve firearms perhaps once a fortnight. So our staff generally are extremely vigilant, and we do send out regular warnings."

"The warnings we have sent out have covered everything, and we have wanted to work with the police and keep the particular circumstances of this campaign silent. Looking back at the warnings we have given, I think actually they have been quite explicit."

Mike Pitcher, director of operations at Barclays, said the bank had not specifically mentioned the bomber because it had been "guided by the police. They are the experts. The police wanted to keep the number of people who knew about this to an absolute minimum because they thought it would give the perpetrator time to trip himself up."

Mr Pitcher said the bank had sent out at least 12 warnings to staff since the bombing campaign started in December 1994. These had provided information about the nature of devices and



Staff at Barclays branches were not told of the blackmailer but were given warnings on security

were in addition to other "very stringent security procedures".

"What we have done is remind staff of the need for continued vigilance." He said that staff also received regular training about security procedures.

Senior officers admitted yes-

terday that they had no strong leads on the identity of the blackmailer. The name Mardi Gra was printed on the cover of the video boxes containing the first bombs sent in 1994. Many of the bombs have been made with shotgun cartridges which explode when the box containing them is opened.

Cunning criminal driven by a powerful grudge

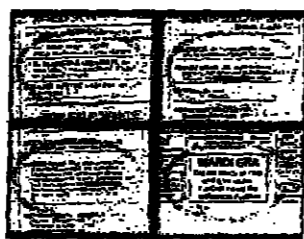
BY STEWART TENDLER

THE Barclays bomber is a cunning criminal with an engineering background who works alone and is driven by a powerful grudge against the bank or anyone connected with it, psychological profilers have told police.

Anti-terrorist detectives have consulted psychologists and bomb experts to build up a picture of the attacker which shows that he may have been a customer or worked for the bank and Barclaycard at one stage. He could still do so.

Some of the bombs were sent to the homes of bank officials, suggesting that he has had access to the bank's computer files. His obsession with Barclays is so strong that he has even attacked firms that supply the bank or have links with Barclaycard.

A Yard source said yesterday: "He is a loner with a clear specific grudge who possibly lives in London. He is a combination of the erratic and



the careful planner. He will go for long periods doing nothing which shows he is prepared to wait."

Experts think the bomber designed the bombs himself, which suggests a military or engineering background. He also built wooden boxes to hold some bombs. One investigator said yesterday: "The things are well engineered. There is skill in how they have been put together."

Yard officers have consulted FBI experts involved in the hunt for the Unabomber. A man was arrested by American police last week in connection with a 17-year campaign

against the spread of new technology that has led to three deaths.

Ted Kaczynski, arrested for the Unabomber attacks, led a solitary existence in the Montana hills. The Unabomber travelled across the United States striking at will. The Barclays bomber also struck whenever he chose. Police believe that he sometimes acted on the spur of the moment as he passed a building. "It is almost as if he drives around London and drops them off," said a police source.

The bomber's demands have been vague and he has never come up with detailed proposals on how money should be paid, yet he is familiar with forensic science techniques and has taken care not to leave clues. His contacts with police through newspaper personal columns have been designed to avoid entrapment. Police have tried to tempt him into making contact by telephone but he has resisted the bait.

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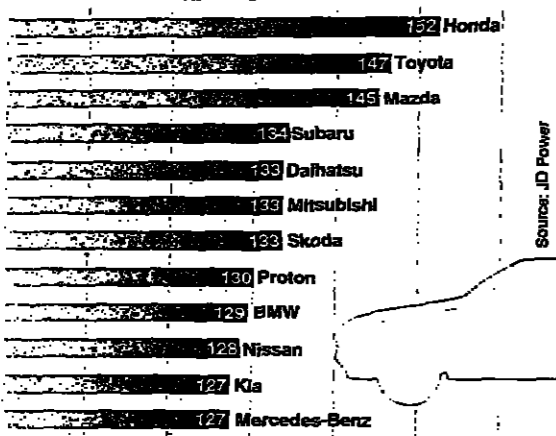
British left standing by Japanese in car satisfaction survey

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

CARS produced by traditional British manufacturers such as Ford and Vauxhall are rated among the worst in an authoritative survey on customer satisfaction launched yesterday. Rover fares slightly better in the J.D. Power league table, in which Skoda appears ahead of BMW and Mercedes.

The survey, which is regarded as the motorist's bible in America, checked the experiences of more than 14,000 owners of 1-registered cars in Britain. The result is a comprehensive survey of what motorists think of their cars and dealers. Car makers are sceptical, however, pointing out that the research took place three years ago.

SATISFACTION FROM YOUR CAR THE LEADING MAKES



98 Toyota Corolla	84 Hyundai Lantra	77 VW Passat
97 Honda Civic	84 Renault Laguna	76 Suzuki Vitara
92 Toyota Camry	84 Proton Persona	76 VW Polo
91 Mazda 626	83 Isuzu Trooper	76 Fiat Tipo
91 Mitsubishi Colt	83 Fiat Punto	76 Peugeot 106
91 Mazda 626	83 Rover 600	76 Ford Fiesta
90 Honda Accord	83 Mitsubishi Shogun	75 SEAT Ibiza
89 Subaru Legacy	83 Jeep Cherokee	75 Citroen AX
89 Subaru Impreza	82 Saab 900	75 Fiat Cinquecento
88 Nissan Micra	81 Audi 80	74 Vauxhall Cavalier
88 Daihatsu Fourtrack	81 Renault 19	74 Rover 600
88 Skoda Favorit	81 Volvo 400	73 Land Rover Discovery
88 BMW 5-series	81 Jaguar XJ6	72 Ford Granada
88 Mitsubishi Galant	80 Rover 200	72 Renault Espace
88 Nissan Primera	80 Peugeot 306	72 Fiat Linea
88 Mercedes 200/300	79 VW Golf	72 Vauxhall Calibra
88 Saab 900	79 Rover Metro	71 Vauxhall Corsa
88 Proton Maj	79 Citroen Xantia	71 Vauxhall Astra
88 Nissan Sunny	79 Ford Escort	70 Ford Mondeo
88 Kia Pride	79 Peugeot 405	69 Vauxhall Carlton
88 Seat Toledo	78 Renault Clio	69 Vauxhall Omega
88 Mercedes C-class	78 Peugeot 205	67 Ford Escort
88 BMW 3-series	78 Citroen ZX	67 Vauxhall Frontera
88 Volvo 850		64 Lada Samara

transformed by Volkswagen. Its new owner, will no doubt eschew this point of view after scoring highest of the Europeans in a league table dominated by Japanese manufacturers.

Honda is rated as the best overall manufacturer, followed by Toyota, Mazda, Subaru, Daihatsu and Mitsubishi. The survey is a near disaster for British manufacturers: Power executives, while refusing to disclose the full list of 32 makes, confirmed that the big volume makers are "in the bottom third".

Of 72 models featured in the list, the highest placed British-made cars are Japanese - the Toyota Carina made in Derbyshire, the Honda Accord

from Wiltshire and the Nissan Micra and Primera models from Wearside.

The Rover 600 is the best-placed "traditional" British car, in 30th position, followed by the Jaguar XJ6 in 38th. Britain's best-selling car, the Ford Escort, is third from the bottom. Of the ten worst cars in the league table, six are Vauxhalls and two Fords.

J.D. Power UK, the company founder and president, said: "It is up to the manufacturers to take this information away with them and to use it to make major gains in their product quality."

"The Japanese led the way in the US but the domestic manufacturers changed their ways. When we started in 1985, US manufacturers would face 170 to 180 faults for every 100 vehicles they made. Now that figure is down to 50. Pressure from consumers helped them change their ways."

The survey shows 63 per cent of British owners are "very satisfied" with their cars compared with 77 per cent of owners in a similar survey in America. Dealers fared much worse, with only 41 per cent of motorists being satisfied with the service they receive in the showroom and workshop. However, Dave Sargent, Power's director of European operations, said: "Poor product quality gives dealers a much harder task."

Roger King, public affairs director for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "This survey is judging cars from three years ago, since when the industry has made enormous strides. The results do not explain why the Ford Mondeo, for example, is on the preferred list in almost every other survey but scores badly in this one."

The answer, according to Power researchers, might be because the volume manufacturers sell to tougher customers, the fleet buyers, while Japanese manufacturers tend to sell more to private buyers.



Nirlev Sohal, daughter of VC winner Parkash Singh, visiting the exhibition yesterday with her husband Kanwal

Commonwealth heroes honoured

By JOHN YOUNG

NOTHING could stop Parkash Singh coming to the rescue of comrades under fire. Now his hard-won Victoria Cross is one of the most treasured items in an exhibition honouring millions of Commonwealth volunteers who came to Britain's aid in wartime.

On January 6, 1943, Sergeant Singh was serving with the 5/8 Punjab Regiment, as part of the 14th Indian Division in the Arakan region of Burma, when the Japanese opened fire on two disabled Bren-gun carriers. He drove his own carrier out and successfully rescued the crews.

Two weeks later, on January 19, he carried out an almost identical rescue of two other crews. He connected a chain to a third carrier, containing two wounded men,

A world record was set yesterday when decorations won by Major General Orde Wingate, right, leader of the Chindits in Burma, were sold for £56,500. The medals and memorabilia included his triple Distinguished Service Order, Colt revolver, Royal Artillery captain's tunic and a battered pith helmet. The collection was bought by an anonymous British collector at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, West Sussex, setting a record for non-Victoria Cross gallantry medals.



and towed it to safety under heavy anti-tank and machine-gun fire. The Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, presented Sergeant Singh's Victoria Cross six months later. After a

career in the Army he reached the rank of major and died in retirement, but his daughters, Nirlev and Jyoti, and granddaughter Malika have been among visitors to the exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, the former chief of staff, said at the opening that without the immense achievements of the Indian forces the war in Asia might never have been won.

In later life, when Mr Singh returned to the Punjab, he was known to everyone as VC. His daughters recalled, Nirlev lives in north-west London with her husband, Kanwal Sohal, a solicitor, and Malika, their eight-year-old daughter.

The exhibition honours Commonwealth exploits in two world wars and in Korea. On a wall are the words of David Lloyd George after the First World War: "The causes of the war were unknown in India; its theatre in Europe remote. Yet India stood by its allegiance heart and soul from the first call to arms."

Luftwaffe joins Dad's Army in heritage battle

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Luftwaffe is to come to the aid of the Dad's Army that defended Britain against its onslaught, in an attempt to preserve Scotland's wartime heritage before it is too late.

The Defence of Scotland Project was launched in Edinburgh yesterday and Home Guard veterans have been asked to help the attempt to record the hundreds of pillboxes, gun sites and coastal

batteries which were vital to the national defence 50 years ago. Of vital assistance to historians are the hundreds of photographs of British defences taken by the Luftwaffe, now in German museums.

Many of the defences lie neglected and overgrown. Some were dismantled and others are under threat from erosion. The Army has no record of them and the Ministry of Defence no longer necessarily owns the land.

Doreen Grove, Historic Scotland's in-

spector of ancient monuments, said: "The most urgent record required is the recollections of the people who built and manned the defences. These remain a vital but neglected source of historical information."

Stephen Wood, a military historian based at Edinburgh Castle, said 120 photographs taken from German aircraft during the war had so far been used and showed the defences with great clarity. German photographs

Basics put 5.6% more on typical food bill

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE cost of feeding a typical family has risen by 5.6 per cent in the past 12 months, according to research by the consultants Reward. Steve Flather, of Reward, says that the rise can be attributed to increases in the price of staple foods, such as potatoes, apples and eggs.

Announced promotions include:

Asda: fresh beef sirloin steak £7.25 a kg, broccoli 99p a lb, strawberries 69p for 227g.

Budgens: fresh Cumberland pork sausages 99p for 454g, Filippo Berio extra-virgin olive oil £1.99 for 250ml, English Ida Red apples 65p a kg.

Co-op: fresh Scottish salmon steaks £1.99 for 226g, cheeseboard selection tray £3.99 for 520g, pure orange juice £1.79 for 3 ltr.

Harrods: smoked salmon delice £2.95, Serrano ham £3.55 for 100g, kippers £3.10 a kg, mixed Dutch peppers £1.95 for four.

Iceland: breaded nuggets £3.79 for 50, part-boned chicken breasts £3.99 for 1.5kg.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

button sprouts 99p for 907g, strawberry and vanilla New York cheesecake £1.99.

Marks & Spencer: New Zealand lamb rib chops £7.49 a kg, Bakewell tarts 85p for two, croissants 99p for eight.

Morrisons: mini Melton Mowbray pork pies £1.49 for six, oysters 29p each, light coleslaw 39p for 227g.

Safeway: topside, silverside or top round with added basting fat £4.99 a kg, British crumbed ham 59p a lb, New Zealand extra mature cheddar £2.19 a lb, grapefruit 29p each.

Sainsbury's: premium pork sausages £1.09 for 454g, mature blue Stilton £1.67 a lb, oranges £1.19 for eight.

Somerfield: fresh boneless leg of pork £2.99 a kg, tiger prawns £1.69 for 113g, cherry tomatoes 99p a lb.

Tesco: pork spare rib chops £2.79 a kg, braising steak £2.29 a kg, medium free-range eggs £1.41 for 12, frozen raspberry pavlova £1.79.

Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus sirloin steak £5.99 a lb, Royal Gala apples 49p a lb, new potatoes £1.29 for 2.5kg.

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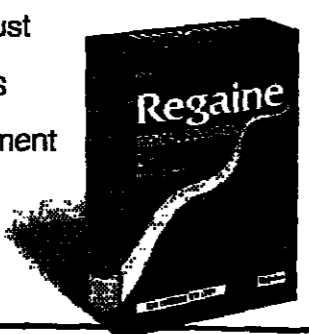
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Twins help search for cause of disorder

By NIGEL HAWKES

OSTEOARTHRITIS, the commonest cause of joint pain, is partly inherited, a three-year study has shown. Until now the disease had been attributed to injuries and general wear and tear. But a research team from St Thomas's Hospital in London and the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Oxford reports in the *British Medical Journal* that there is a strong genetic component. The team compared the incidence of the disease in 250 pairs of identical and non-identical twins, and showed that between 39 and 65 per cent of the cases of osteoarthritis were attributable to genetic factors. The next target is to find the gene that predisposes towards the disease, to enable screening.



Identical twins Joan Robbins, left, and Joyce Shutes, whose condition was examined by the researchers

Scottish doctors may be authorised to allow death

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

DOCTORS in Scotland who stop treating coma patients regarded as incapable of recovery, allowing them to die, will not face criminal prosecution for murder or culpable homicide, the Lord Advocate said yesterday. The statement from the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, was made in the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday as the case of Janet Johnston, 53, reached the final stages of a legal hearing that has lasted eight months.

Mrs Johnston, who lived in Ailantony, Strathclyde, has been in a persistent vegetative state in Law Hospital, Carlisle, for four years after she took an overdose of her asthma medication. She is fed by nasal tube but breathes on her own and is not on a life-support machine. Doctors said she had suffered two seizures, causing brain damage. Since then she has been kept alive by intensive nursing. She opens her eyes occasionally but has not reacted to stimuli.

The case has been brought by the hospital, which is arguing that doctors should be allowed to let Mrs Johnston die peacefully, with dignity and in the least possible distress. It has the backing of Mrs Johnston's family. The Lord Advocate has made clear that for exemption from prosecution to be secured, the Court of Session would have to authorise the death of a patient.

Yesterday, Mrs Johnston's case was adjourned for the last time. A final decision on whether doctors can terminate treatment will be made by Lord Cameron of Lochboonn later this month. The chief executive of Law Hospital NHS Trust, Ken Thomson, who was in court to hear the Lord Advocate's statement, said afterwards that he very much welcomed it.

Mrs Johnston's husband Peter welcomed the court ruling on immunity from prosecution. He said yesterday: "The staff at Law Hospital have done a lot for Janet. I don't want them to get into trouble if they stop feeding her. I just want my wife to die in peace and with dignity. Thank God Janet will soon be at rest."

Prisoners volunteer for experiment

Vitamins may wean young offenders from diet of crime

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG offenders are to be given vitamin pills in a pilot project aimed at changing their anti-social behaviour. More than a hundred volunteers will take part in a six-month experiment at Aylesbury young-offender institution. It is hoped the project will show that a change of diet can reduce aggression.

The experiment, which begins next month, follows research in the United States that suggested links between offenders' behaviour and deficiencies in vitamins and minerals. Volunteers will be given supplements containing zinc, fatty acids and other nutrients for comparison with a similar number of inmates who will take dummy pills. The trial will cost more than £100,000.

Bernard Gesch, who will run the project, said yesterday: "Too many people are like jet fighters — refuelling on the move. They grab what they can and that tends to be snacks. Snack food is notoriously low in nutritional value." Mr Gesch, a former probation officer who now runs Natural Justice, a charity based in Ulverston, Cumbria, said: "If we can improve a

person's health by nutritional supplements this will give us a much better chance at rehabilitating the offender."

By the end of the trial Mr Gesch expects to be able to compare the disciplinary records of the two groups, their wellbeing and their mental state. The project is being funded by a number of charities and is the first of its kind to be conducted in a British jail. A number of studies in the United States have indicated that prisoners suffered from serious deficiencies in vitamins C and B1 and zinc.

Some studies have suggested that a lack of zinc could be linked with impaired control and depression. Derek Bryce-Smith, emeritus professor of chemistry at Reading University, said that work done with juveniles in Cumbria had found zinc deficiencies.

Mr Bryce-Smith said: "Many were depressed and tried to deal with that by seeking excitement, often through crime. Zinc supplements helped them feel better and prevented them doing that things."

He stressed, however, that supplements were not a panacea for criminal behaviour. "I am not saying that the whole problem of crime can be resolved by one little zinc pill

each day but a range of vitamins and minerals, including zinc, could change behaviour for the better."

There has been very little research in Britain on links between diet and behaviour, although a number of people in the criminal justice system believe changes in diet can lead to changes in mental state, particularly among hyper-active children.

Historically, diet has been used as an instrument of control in the prison system. In Victorian times diets were linked to a prisoner's behaviour and how much of their sentence had been served.

The pilot project was given a cautious welcome by a leading penal reform group yesterday. Stephen Shaw of the Prison Reform Trust said: "Some research has been done in the United States which maintains there is a link between fast foods and criminal behaviour. I think this could be a useful addition to our knowledge."

Dr Thomas Stuttford, who writes for *The Times*, said a zinc deficiency could lead to a lack of self-control. "There is slim evidence that nutritional deficiencies can be related to bad behaviour in children but the evidence is pretty scant," he said.

Comedian continues to smile through ten years of pain

LEE HURST, the comedian who co-stars in the BBC quiz *They Think It's All Over*, has disclosed that for ten years he has suffered from ankylosing spondylitis.

This inflammatory rheumatic disorder principally affects the joints between the vertebrae of the spine and the joints between the spine and the pelvis. It can also involve the peripheral joints, particularly when the victims are women or children.

Hurst is a typical sufferer from ankylosing spondylitis in that he is male and was between the ages of 20 and 40 when the disease first struck. It attacks 1 per cent of the general population, but 20 per cent of those who have a particular tissue type and carry the histocompatibility antigen HLA-B27. This characteristic can be inherited.

As the arthritis in the spine develops, problems are not caused only by the pain from the inflamed joints but by an increasingly stiff back, which



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

can become so extreme that the spine becomes fused. The back pain is worst in the mornings. Treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs is intended to stop the patient adopting a permanent stoop. Patients may develop inflammation within the eye, inflammation of the covering of the heart, aortic valvular heart disease and lung complications. Stiffening of the joints of the chest does not by itself usually cause breathlessness but, as breathing is restricted, the lungs often become infected, requiring treatment with antibiotics. Patients who are HLA-B27 positive have another grave

disadvantage. They are liable to develop Reiter's syndrome if they catch non-specific urethritis from a sexual partner, or from some forms of dysentery. Reiter's syndrome also causes severe arthritis and inflammation of the eyes and of the skin of the palms and soles.

Mr Hurst is unmarried and is reported in his interview to have referred to girlfriends. Reiter's is a forceful argument for monogamy. As a colleague used to tell patients who were found to be HLA-B27 positive: "Some men are born to prefer monogamy — others have it thrust upon them. You belong to the latter group."

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Meteorite carried helium stowaways

Crater find suggests building blocks of life came from space

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

CARBON found in a huge crater in Canada made by a meteorite nearly two billion years ago strengthens the idea that the chemicals of life arrived on Earth from outer space. American scientists have found carbon molecules in the crater debris near Sudbury, Ontario, and have shown that they survived the fiery impact of an object the size of Mount Everest hitting the Earth.

The team from the University of Rochester, New York State, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California, report in *Science* magazine that the carbon was in the form of "buckyballs", also known as fullerenes — football-shaped molecules made up of 60 carbon atoms — and that trapped within them were atoms of helium. The helium

stowaways were a mixture of isotopes — different forms of the element — in a ratio that is not found on Earth, but is found in meteorites. This is strong evidence that the helium and the carbon in which it was encased originated outside the solar system.

The team measured the ratio of two helium isotopes, helium-3 and helium-4, and found that it was ten times higher than the ratio found in helium from the Earth's mantle. "The ratio of the helium inside the buckyballs is what we typically find in meteorites," says Professor Robert Poreda of the University of Rochester. "It's much higher than the ratio found anywhere on Earth."

"Our results show clearly that this helium and these buckyballs are of extraterrestrial origin. If a meteorite or a

comet can deliver intact carbon molecules to the Earth's surface, then it's likely that other organic compounds can also survive an impact."

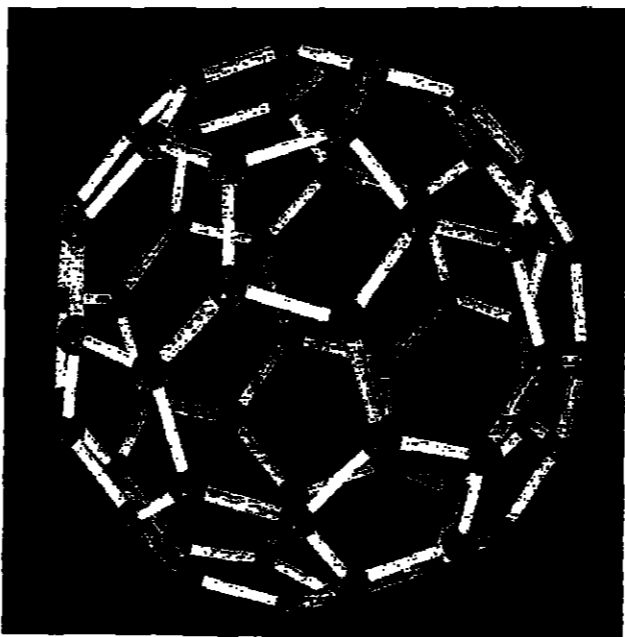
The Scripps scientists were surprised by the findings. "It just didn't make sense to either one of us that fullerenes could survive an impact like this," Dr LuAnn Becker says. The crater covers nearly 700 square miles and the impact would have released a thousand times more energy than detonating every nuclear weapon on Earth.

If carbon did survive the impact, it fills a gap in the evolution of life on Earth. Two billion years ago there were no higher-level plants and no concentrated sources of carbon on Earth, yet all modern life forms are based on the chemistry of carbon. Where did it all come from? The new

evidence backs the idea that it came from outer space, after being created in cool stars known as red giants.

"I have to admit that I was a very strong opponent of this view," says Dr Jeffrey Bada of Scripps, one of the authors. "I didn't think it would be a viable way to get organics on the Earth because I believed, as most people did, that these events were just too energetic for the stuff to survive. Now, all of a sudden, I have a different view."

The buckyballs were found in the Sudbury crater two



"Buckyballs" were found to contain helium atoms which had originated outside our solar system.

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The buckyballs were found in the Sudbury crater two

years ago, but at the time Dr Bada believed them to have been formed in the impact. He has changed his mind because of studies of the helium inside them, using a mass spectrometer.

Buckyballs are exotic molecules of carbon, first identified in 1985 by a team that included Professor Harold Kroto of Sussex University.

They were named Buckminsterfullerene because their structure resembles that of the geodesic domes designed by the late American engineer Buckminster Fuller.

Gene discovery provides clue to causes of ageing

By Nigel Hawkes

THE first human gene known to affect the ageing process has been identified by American scientists.

The gene has been isolated in people suffering from a rare genetic disease called Werner's syndrome. Normal as children, sufferers begin to age rapidly in adolescence. They stop growing, their hair goes grey and they suffer several of the degenerative diseases of age, including blocked arteries, diabetes and bone thinning.

The discovery of the gene is an important finding because the changes are so like those of ordinary ageing. A team from Seattle Veterans Affairs Health Care System and Darwin Molecular Corporation, a biotechnology company in Seattle, reports the results in *Science*.

The gene identified is one that carries the genetic code for an enzyme called a helicase, whose job it is to unwind the two strands of the DNA double helix by

breaking the hydrogen bonds that hold them together. This means that the helicase is involved in many operations, including DNA replication and repair.

Failure of the DNA in cells to copy itself with perfect accuracy, and the consequent slow accumulation of errors, is one of the possible causes of ageing. "We are very excited about the discovery, and that the function of the gene product is apparently so clear," Dr David Galas, executive vice-president of Darwin, said.

"There is still a great deal to be learnt about the precise processes involved in the cell, but our work has now opened a new window into the biology of age-related diseases," he said.

The scientific team, led by Dr Gerard Schellenberg, concludes that the finding is evidence that "at least some components of normal ageing and disease susceptibility in later life may be related to aberrations in DNA metabolism".



Eva Herzogova

Bra team gives flask a big lift

The Thermos flask is being given a racy new image by the man who thought up the Wonderbra adverts, featuring Eva Herzogova. The £500,000 advertising campaign by Trevor Beattie and his agency TBWA, to be launched this week, includes slogans such as "Leave it, Grandad."

Set piece

One of the first British-made television sets, a 1938 HMV model 904, fetched £2,700 at Christie's in London. It has a walnut cabinet, built-in wireless and 4in by 4in round screen — but no longer works with modern power systems or broadcasts.

Tranquil travel

Mobile telephones and personal stereos have been banned from certain carriages on Great Western trains between Paddington and South Wales. Passengers have also been asked to speak quietly. A spokesman said: "People seem to like the peace and quiet."

Research prize

Dr Paul Nurse, director of laboratory research at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London, has won the Dr H.P. Heinen Prize for biochemistry and biophysics, awarded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Fire kills boy

A four-year-old boy died after fire broke out in his bedroom. Jason Ditch was rescued from the burning room at his home in Colchester, Essex, by firefighters, but died at the scene. His mother, Caroline, and brothers Jake, 6, and Jordan, 2, escaped unhurt.

Mane road ahead

The first pelican crossing for horses, costing £20,000 and with traffic controls at saddle height, is being built on the A505 bypass in Nottinghamshire. The new relief road, which crosses a bridge path, also includes six underground tunnels for toads.

Overwork can be bad for your health

OVERWORK is a killer, researchers said yesterday, and the Government should support limits to the working week (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Dr Susan Michie and Dr Ann Cockcroft, of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, said evidence showed that higher workloads increase disease and death rates.

Writing in this week's *British Medical Journal*, they quote a seven-year study of 2,465 Danish bus drivers, which showed that those who died or were admitted to hospital with heart attacks were those who drove the busiest routes. Job strain — defined as a combination of high demand and low control — increased mortality.

Why hard workers should die younger remains unknown, they admit. One possibility is that stress might increase hormone levels, or cause sleep disturbances. Alternatively, high job demand may lead to more accidents by causing increased clumsiness.

They called for strategies to reduce the working week: "This should include making employers responsible for preventing work overload and stress, as well as providing help for individuals with work stress-related illness."

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Higher taxes and Labour go together like strawberries and cream, says Major

Irritated Tories try to rain on Blair's American parade

By Philip Webster in London and Peter Riddell in New York

JOHN MAJOR tried to dent the impact of Tony Blair's American visit yesterday by declaring that Labour was forever linked to higher taxes. With the Labour leader trumpeting the message from New York to Washington that he has buried that image for good, the Prime Minister said the party and higher taxes went together "like strawberries and cream".

Speaking on a constituency visit in Cambridgeshire, Mr Major voiced deep scepticism over Mr Blair's attempt, in talks with financiers and a speech to businessmen, to reassure middle-class professionals that Labour would not penalise them.

The Prime Minister said: "What he really plans, heaven alone knows. All I can say is every experience we have had from any Labour Government is that taxes go up. What we have seen from local authorities run by the Labour Party across the country is council

taxes going up. Labour and higher taxes go together like strawberries and cream.

"The reality is the Labour Party always wants to spend more money and you can't spend more money unless you're going to put up taxes. Now, if he will tell us why he's suddenly in favour of low taxes, perhaps he can explain why he hasn't supported our tax-cutting over the years, even in the last budget.

"I don't think he can explain that. This seems to me to be another indication that the Labour Party will say almost anything if they think it will win them some temporary support. But I don't believe he is in favour of tax-cutting. I don't believe he could deliver tax-cutting. It is against the instinct of the Labour Party."

Mr Major's remarks reflected the irritation among ministers at the wide media coverage Mr Blair won for his visit. Labour officials were dismissive of the Prime Minister's comments, which a senior adviser to Mr Blair described as "more evidence of the Government behaving like an opposition".

In his speech to businessmen yesterday, Mr Blair argued that Labour did not have to regard high tax as "a virility symbol or as a badge of political pride". He stressed the increase in tax faced by ordinary people under the Conservatives and said that Labour's top priority should be "to lower taxes at the bottom end and reduce the appallingly high marginal rates of tax millions of working people pay".

The Labour leader said that this "should not be seen as a desire to punish those at the top". Many people with "modest income", such as some policemen, schoolteachers and middle-managers, were currently paying the higher rate of tax, he said.

Mr Blair did not make any precise commitments, but claimed: "New Labour needs no persuasion of the need to encourage entrepreneurs, innovators and wealth creators. I want a system where people can become wealthy through hard work and merit, not rely on inheritance or a better class of accountants."

Mr Major was asked if Mr Blair was stealing his thunder. He replied: "It sounds to me as though he realises that what the Conservative Party stands for is what the people of this country stand for, but that isn't what the Labour Party stands for and it isn't what the Labour Party can deliver."

"Tories believe in low taxes. If we put taxes up it's because we've no choice. The gut instinct of the Labour Party is to spend more and put taxes up. He said last year that you can only tell what a party's like when it's in power. Labour is in power in local government right across the country. Council tax has gone up dramatically."

Wowing Wall St. page 21



Tony Blair in talks with the multi-millionaire financier George Soros, regarded as a connoisseur of power

Bankers and brokers pay homage to a Prime Minister in waiting

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

WHEN an American pension-fund manager asked about the reference to enterprise in the new Clause Four of Labour's constitution, Tony Blair knew his party was being taken seriously again. For the first time in nearly two decades, a Labour leader visiting America is being treated as a potential Prime Minister.

The most striking feature of the Blair visit is how he, and his views, are being probed as if he might soon be in office. It started on the plane on Wednesday, when he was questioned by passengers and by the cabin crew who claimed they were thinking of voting Labour. In New York, he has been given the official mark of leadership status by those two connoisseurs of power, Henry Kissinger and George Soros, as well as being feted by the media and by the Democrat Party elite.

Typical was a round-table discussion with 28 bankers, brokers and fund-managers. The initial atmosphere was said to be tense, as if Mr Blair

was making a presentation on behalf of "New Labour plc" to sceptical institutional investors. There was apparently a touch of the "third degree". The audience was already well-informed about Labour — partly thanks to a recent visit by Gordon Brown — and asked about policies on inflation, a single currency and the Bank of England. This interest was not because those present are pro-Labour — such investors are not enthusiastic about any politicians — but rather because they want to know about who is, or is likely to be, in power.

This interest has encouraged Mr Blair to clarify his message. It is partly reassurance — that Labour would be a safe bet for inward investment, would not penalise wealth creators, and would keep the current framework of trade union laws. There is plenty for the Tories to argue about in Labour's commitment to the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty and to the minimum wage. But Mr Blair has established in the public and business mind that Labour has changed substantially — not least by transforming its structure to bypass its more ideological activists, "freeing it from the excessive influence of pressure and interest groups," as he put it yesterday.

But what Mr Blair has only really begun recently to do is to show how Labour's policies would differ from the Tories. This is less to do with detailed policies than with broad strategic direction. In his speech yesterday Mr Blair took that forward. It was not just his claim that Labour is a party of the Centre as well as the Centre-Left. It was more his attempt to argue that the Thatcherite agenda of opening up markets and encouraging enterprise should not be reversed but, that gov-

ernment now faced new problems and priorities in equipping people and business to succeed in a more competitive world.

The key theme, stressed more clearly yesterday than before, is that Mr Blair sees an active role for government in handling such change in an era of economic insecurity. This involves policies for government to work in partnership with business and measures to improve education and skills and to reform the welfare state.

This can be seen as common ground between the main parties. After all, while David Blunkett and Gillian Shephard argue about selection, they have similar approaches to improving standards in schools. But there are key differences over the extent of regulation and the balance between the government and free markets. Mr Blair has staked his ground: now he will have to justify his view that governments really can make a difference.

THE Green Party, which once seemed poised to break into mainstream politics in Britain, launched its local government election campaign yesterday in an attempt to regain the national spotlight.

Party activists, outnumbering a solitary reporter and camera crew by four to one, had seemed hopeful when queues of people formed at Conway Hall, London, the venue for a press conference. Their optimism quickly vanished when they realised that the crowds were waiting to audition next door for a university student production of *The Deep Blue Sea*.

The Greens' membership has fallen to 4,600 from a peak of 20,000 in 1989, the year they polled 2.5 million votes, 15 per cent of the total cast, in the European elections. It was the year they promised to transform the political landscape.

But since 1991 their opinion poll rating, according to MORI, has been stuck firmly on 1 per cent. They attracted only 1.6 per cent of the vote at the last general election and 3.5 per cent in the 1994 European elections.

The party boasts of having more than 100 councillors, but closer analysis shows that only 19 are at district level; the rest are parish councillors. It is fielding 288 candidates in next month's local elections compared with almost 700 last year, although fewer seats are being fought.

However, optimism ruled supreme at the yesterday's launch. Members were flying flags from the Taiwan Green Party, which they helped to launch in January, and which has already succeeded in having its first MP elected. They promised to continue to be visible in bypass protests. They are planning an assault on the Metropolitan boroughs of Leeds and Kirkcaldy and have high hopes of two gains.

David Taylor, the party's principal spokesman, said they were involved in real issues, not fluffy ones. "We have been going for 23 years. We are the oldest Green Party in Europe. We are not given proper credit and do not have any national representation because of the iniquities of the voting system."

The man on almost everyone's guest list

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BY THE time Tony Blair flies home from Washington tonight there will be scarcely a senior member of the Clinton Administration nor a leading American opinion-former that he has not met.

The only major players the Labour leader will not encounter during his 24 hours in the American capital are Bob Dole, Newt Gingrich and the other Republican masters of Congress who are conveniently out of town.

Mr Blair will be received by President Clinton, Al Gore, the Vice-President, and Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, at the White House this morning and was scheduled to meet Hillary Clinton at a private cocktail

party last night. He also had a meeting late yesterday with Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Sir John Kerr, the British Ambassador, was last night hosting a dinner for Mr Blair at which the guests were to include the Gulf War commander Colin Powell.

Whether Mr Blair's visit generates extensive coverage in the US media remains to be seen. He was interviewed on ABC's *Good Morning America* yesterday, and will be seen at this morning on the Fox network's breakfast show. This afternoon he is to appear on CNN but neither CBS nor NBC, the two other big networks, requested interviews.

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Daily Express 31.1.96

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Ruling party emerges with election lead

North Korean threats backfire in Seoul poll

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN SEOUL

WITH more than three fifths of the vote counted, the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) held a clear lead in South Korea's parliamentary elections which dealt a humiliating blow to Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader.

A record low 63.9 per cent of the electorate took part in yesterday's poll, which was contested against a backdrop of increasing tension with North Korea. Many people chose to get away for the national holiday instead of voting, although there were street battles in Seoul between anti-government students and the police.

Last night, the NKP led in 123 electoral districts, followed by Kim Dae Jung's National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) in 66. The conservative United Liberal Democrats (ULD) led in 39 districts, the Democratic Party in nine districts and independents in 16. There were 294 seats at stake.

including 46 decided on a proportional basis.

Chang Dasaro, an NKP spokesman, said that President Kim Young Sam would have no difficulty maintaining his mandate for the remainder of his term. "We will be able to hold onto our parliamentary majority by fielding sympathetic independents," he said.

Mr Chang predicted that the NKP would secure 138 seats, including their proportional seats, 12 fewer than the 150 needed for an absolute majority.

Earlier predictions by three television networks based on a mixture of exit polls and telephone surveys turned out to have greatly exaggerated gains by the NKP.

Kim Dae Jung, 72, who marched back on to the political scene last year after big opposition gains in local elections in June, suffered a serious setback. He had said that he would run for the presiden-

cy next year only if yesterday's polls showed the people to be behind him.

Ruling party officials and analysts attributed the strong showing for the NKP to recent North Korean forays into the border area, which boosted the NKP's chances by persuading people to support the Government at time of threat.

"I think Kim Jong Il [the North Korean leader] helped the NKP a lot," Lee Ho Jae, a political science professor at Korea University, said.

The election outcome echoed what happened in the presidential election in Taiwan last month, when President Lee Teng-hui was victorious after China attempted to intimidate Taiwanese voters by conducting missile tests in the Taiwan Strait. North Korea sent troops into the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas in three consecutive forays over the weekend in violation

of the 1953 armistice agreement.

About 1,000 extreme-left-wing students fought the police near Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, hurling firebombs to counter volleys of teargas in a protest against the elections. "Overthrow Kim Young Sam and conservative politicians," the students shouted as they threw hundreds of firebombs at the riot police. Several police officers were engulfed in flames, but there were no serious casualties, witnesses said.

The strong showing for the conservative ULD, headed by Kim Jong Pil, the former Korean Central Intelligence Agency chief, was boosted by areas loyal to Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, the jailed former Presidents. They are on trial charged with corruption and with leading a military rebellion that brought Mr Chun to power in 1980.



President Kim Young Sam prepares to vote in yesterday's general election

WORLD SUMMARY

UN attack on French 'racism'

Geneva: A United Nations special investigator rejected French claims to be a haven for human rights yesterday when he gave a severe account of racism and xenophobia sweeping the country, in part with official blessing (Peter Capella writes).

In a report on his mission last October, Maurice Glele-Ahanhanzo, the special investigator, said xenophobia had been fuelled by the public statements of French politicians as well as by tough nationality and immigration laws passed in 1993.

FBI warning on Unabomber mail

New York: Timber executives in northwestern America have been told by federal investigators to check their post in case the Unabomber suspect, Theodore Kaczynski, mailed a bomb before his arrest last week (Quentin Letts writes). FBI sources said a device found at Mr Kaczynski's Montana cabin bore an address and, like the deadly parcels sent by the Unabomber, also had a false sender's name and address.

Harare looking for a hangman

Harare: The Zimbabwe Government, which has more than 100 prisoners under sentence of death, is making secret approaches to prison staff to find a hangman (Jan Raath writes). The last incumbent, who was never named, died last month, taking the secrets of his trade to the grave. "He did not want to teach anyone else the job," a spokesman said.

America expels Sudan envoy

New York: Ahmed Yousif Muhammad, second secretary at Sudan's United Nations mission, was expelled from the US as part of Washington's campaign to isolate Sudan's Islamic regime (James Bone writes). He was implicated in plots to blow up the UN building in 1993 and to kill President Mubarak of Egypt.

Africans sign nuclear treaty

Cairo: Forty-three African states signed a treaty declaring Africa free of nuclear weapons, President Mubarak of Egypt told the signing ceremony the Africans had set an example which the Middle East and rest of the world should follow. (Reuters)

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Organised crime's profits at \$1,000bn

FROM REUTERS IN MANILA

ORGANISED crime gangs make \$1,000 billion (£660 billion) a year in profits and are so powerful economically that they pose a threat to developing countries and emerging democracies, a United Nations official said yesterday.

The profits include \$1 billion laundered through global financial markets every day. Eduardo Vetter, head of the Vienna-based UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, told a conference in Manila.

He said that the estimated total of criminal profits almost equalled the annual budget of the United States. "Free trade and high-speed telecommunications make it easier to engage in multiple activities and launder money across national borders, with an estimated \$1 billion in crime profits wire-transferred through the world financial markets every day."

He added: "It has become clear that only by tackling organised crime in a concerted manner can we hope to make inroads into a problem that transcends borders and the capacity of national mechanisms alone."

Right now, Children are dying in Liberia

The fighting in Liberia has escalated dramatically. Children have been forced to flee their homes and villages, dodging bullets and mortar fire. *There is no embassy for them to run to.* Many children have received horrific injuries and lost one or both parents. *Thousands of children face possible death.*

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Foreigners evacuated amid Monrovia bloodshed

Briton condemns UN over escape ordeal in Liberia

By LEVIA LINTON

ONE of the first Britons evacuated from Monrovia, the Liberian capital, condemned the United Nations yesterday for refusing to help her when her life was in danger.

Wendy White, 38, from Staplehurst, Kent, said that, to the sound of gunfire, she and her colleagues had made a terrifying six-mile journey through the city only for officials at the UN's Riverview compound to refuse them admission for four hours. UN officials also tried to stop her and her friends from boarding one of two helicopters leaving the compound.

The officials told her and her companions that they were not a priority and that the helicopters were not intended to help with evacuation. But the German pilots refused to leave without passengers and Ms White and other Britons were eventually given seats after UN personnel were ordered not to leave.

In the confusion one Briton, Ian Christmas, 41, from Doncaster, was left behind and is believed now to be without adequate supplies of food and water. "Our fear now is that he and the others could be taken hostage," said Ms White, who returned to Britain yesterday.

She and her friends had sheltered in the house of a World Food Programme official in Monrovia for three days. "He was very good, but most of them kept themselves to themselves, to the point where we felt they were keep-

ing supplies to themselves," she said.

By last Monday Ms White said the rebels had looted the Mobil compound next door. "We knew we were next, and we were constantly under fear of attack. Towards the end food was running out."

Ms White, Andrew Dunham, her partner, and fellow Briton David Wood-Roberts finally boarded one of the helicopters at dusk on Monday. When they arrived in Freetown after a two-hour

Nothing had prepared me for Monrovia; it is a hell hole. Every single building was a shell

flight, Ms White said she kissed the tarmac. "I really thought I was going to die," she added.

Ms White's ordeal began when she was woken by shots and grenade explosions at 3.30am last Saturday as rebels surrounded General Roosevelt Johnson's house just two blocks from the hotel where she was staying. At 8am a rocket-propelled grenade hit the top floor while she was at reception. "The door was open and there was a big gust of wind. My legs turned to jelly

and I felt queasy. I started thinking of home," she said.

For the next 30 minutes she and Mr Dunham waited anxiously as rebels surrounded the hotel. "All we could hear was gunfire. We felt like sitting ducks." Half an hour later soldiers from the West African peacekeeping force came to the hotel with two tanks to evacuate the guests. As one of the soldiers led them out to the convoy of cars, he was shot at.

She is glad to have escaped, but she had harsh words for the UN. "We have been appalled by the UN presence. They have so many staff and what are they doing?"

Now she is worried about her countrymen still in Liberia. "There are a hell of a lot of Britons still out there. We are desperate for them, we are very worried — I am his wife and two children," she said.

Ms White, who, with Mr Dunham, a pilot, had gone to Liberia to set up a Liberian registered airline, added: "Nothing prepared me for Monrovia. It is a hell hole. Every single building was a shell, with raddlers playing on the fifteenth floor of windowless buildings."

She added that it was extremely difficult to do business in the country. "Every time you wanted to do something you had to give backhanders." She added that her and Mr Dunham's company, Liberty Air, had just managed to land a few contracts when the fighting broke out.

Troops of peace force join in looting

By JAMES BONE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WEST African peacekeepers joined in "very heavy, very systematic" looting as fighting continued yesterday in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, United Nations officials said.

Sylvana Foa, for the UN, said reports from the UN mission spoke of a "frenzy of looting" and that it appeared leaders of the warring factions had lost control of their fighters.

UN sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it appeared some West African peacekeepers, particularly Nigerians, had joined in the looting. The peacekeeping force, consisting of soldiers from the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States, was sent to Liberia in 1990 and is known as Ecomog.

UN military observers were forced to take refuge in the US Embassy compound during the looting. A UN scout team which toured the city found "systematic looting everywhere", but UN headquarters lost contact with its offices in Mamba Point, two miles from the city centre, where "UN Row" and the US Embassy are located. The 73 UN military observers in Monrovia fled their headquarters in Mamba Point when the gates were broken down by looters.

The UN Children's Fund and UN Development Programme offices were also reported to have been plundered, and 12 UN staff are said to have sought shelter at the US Embassy. The offices of the World Health Organisation were looted earlier in the week.



Starr signs: Starr Lammon, of Napa, California, cradling her youngest daughter Nicolette, who was born on Monday — exactly the same date as her mother and two sisters Jeirlynn, 12, left, and Ashley, aged 2

Fifteen die in German airport fire

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT LEAST 15 people were reported killed and more than 100 injured when a fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf International airport yesterday.

Many of the casualties were overcome by thick smoke through which firefighters had to search for the victims before the blaze was brought under control, witnesses said. Police said many of the deaths appeared to have been caused by inhaling poisonous gas. The dead were found in the shop and a lift, said police, who added that the death

count could rise because of the seriousness of some of the injuries.

A policeman and a child were among nine of the dead who were found in the lift system. Tents were set up to treat the casualties.

The fire spread rapidly through Terminal A, which primarily serves Lufthansa, police said. A fire service spokesman said that the cause of the fire was not yet known, but the shop where the fire started was undergoing repairs. All firefighting units in Düsseldorf were deployed to

put out the blaze, while fire engines and teams poured in to help from the surrounding area.

Panic broke out in the arrivals hall when the fire erupted. Officials evacuated the terminal and closed the airport to all air traffic, police said.

ZDF television showed pictures of a deserted, smoky terminal after the fire and a body covered with a white sheet on a stretcher on the street outside. "My co-worker saw sparks flying out of a ventilation grille

over this flower store, and he immediately called the fire brigade," an unidentified young man told the television station.

Uninjured travelers were transported to hotels or to the Konrad Adenauer Airport that services Cologne and Bonn, where planes that had been scheduled to arrive at Düsseldorf were being redirected. Access roads to the airport were closed.

Düsseldorf is Germany's second busiest airport in terms of passengers after Frankfurt.

Leaders lose control of gunmen in capital

FROM BUDU KAISA IN MONROVIA

A WOMAN who had not eaten since she gave birth several days before lay groaning on the concrete floor of the casualty clinic, next to two young men shot in the back by the gunmen who have turned Monrovia into a city of bloodlust and anarchy.

"We are trying to manage but there is nothing to do to save their lives," said the French doctor with Médecins Sans Frontières, one of a team of seven who have refused the chance of a flight to safety on American helicopters.

The exhausted doctor said that many people all over the city were wounded,

but could not reach hospitals and clinics because of the fighting, which was also preventing drugs and dressings reaching treatment centres.

While a handful of expatriates remain to help Liberians, the gunmen seem bent on tribal massacre, and indiscriminate killing. Yesterday fighters fired a rocket into the Greystone compound, an American-owned site where 15,000 civilians were sheltering. The rocket killed two boys and wounded several others.

Lawlessness has overtaken Monrovia since Charles Taylor and Al Hajj Kromoh, members of a nascent coalition Government, accused Roosevelt Johnson, their Krahn tribal rival, of murder and unleashed a bloody campaign to

arrest him last week. His fighters returned in kind.

Paul Koulen, the deputy representative of the United Nations Development Programme, said: "The conflict is out of control. Charles Taylor and Al Hajj Kromoh made a monstrous miscalculation. They have forced a re-alliance of forces along tribal lines. None of them has control or can restore public order. It is anarchy." Moments earlier his offices were raided and cars looted by teenagers armed with AK47 rifles.

I have been in Liberia throughout the civil war, which broke out in 1989. In the worst days of 1990 and 1992 the warlords had some kind of control over their men, but even this has vanished.

Tyson in training with Islam to beat temptation

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK



Lafferty takes £2.9m in settlement of estate

What the butler got

New York: A long-running dispute over the will of the tobacco heiress Doris Duke has ended with her bibulous butler accepting a lump sum of \$4.5 million (£2.9 million) (Quentin Lettis writes).

In return, Bernard Lafferty, who is barely able to read and has admitted to being an alcoholic, has agreed to resign as a co-executor of the estate. Towards the end of Miss Duke's life she fell increasingly under the spell of the ponytailed Mr Lafferty.

The agreement clears the way for the remainder of the fortune, bar the fees of advisers, trustees and attendants, to be distributed to the charities named by Miss Duke.

MIKE TYSON, the heavy-weight boxing champion, remained silent yesterday about a woman's allegation that he assaulted her in a Chicago nightclub.

His Islamic spiritual adviser, however, said that "Iron Mike" was prayerful and that although he recently mastered the five daily supplications a devout Muslim must recite, he faced a "never-ending struggle" with temptation.

Police said they were taking "appropriate action" regarding the complaint of a 25-year-old woman that Mr Tyson bit her face after they kissed in a discotheque early on Monday morning. The unnamed woman's lawyer, Jerry Lee Peeter, said that there were two witnesses. She claimed that Mr Tyson summoned her after seeing her on the dance floor.

The boxer himself remained behind the closed door of his large house in Southington, Ohio, but friends disputed the suggestion that Mr Tyson was with the woman in a roped-off part of the sick Clique club. A member of the club management claimed that throughout

his visit Mr Tyson discussed setting up a series of youth centres in Chicago — a perhaps implausible claim given the late hour. The assault, termed "sexual battery" in the police complaint, allegedly occurred at 1.30am in a private room towards the back of the club, a fashionable establishment where ordinary clubgoers can expect to mingle with the celebrities who have made it one of their haunts.

Muhammad Siddiq, a spiritual adviser who has taught Mr Tyson the tenets of his new-found faith, said that his pupil was learning a routine of "prayer, charity and fasting, trying to recognise the goodness of all human beings and trying to avoid those kind of things that keep us going in the right direction."

Clique that night was no place for avoiding temptation. The women were beautiful and the music was loud. Mr Tyson, who remains on parole after his 1992 rape conviction, had gone to Chicago ostensibly to worship at a mosque, but when he was through with his prayers he made for one of the best known honeypots in town. Mr Tyson was drinking nothing stronger than cranberry juice, said his lieutenant, but George Walker, chief probation officer for Marion County's Superior Court criminal division, said: "Bars are not the best place for parolees."

Tyson friends, however, suggested that the woman was simply trying her luck. An acquaintance of the complainant came to Mr Tyson's defence. Tammie Battle, a beauty parlour assistant, said: "She [the alleged victim] kept asking the person who took her coat if she could meet Mike Tyson."

Miss Battle said that she could detect no bite marks on the woman's face when they left Clique together.

Marital slip-up for ice skater

By QUENTIN LETTIS

TONYA HARDING, the bad girl of ice skating, has sued for divorce after less than four months of marriage. When it comes to triple salcos, Miss Harding is mustard, but in her private life she has repeatedly fallen flat on her rump.

The divorce action was started this week in Oregon after Miss Harding experienced "irreconcilable differences" with her second husband, Michael Smith. She wished him happiness and success in his career (he is a machinist) and hoped the good wishes were reciprocated (unlikely). It seems a different world from December 23, the day of their white wedding on board a yacht.

The wedding was sealed from the press because the couple hoped to sell exclusive photographs of the event to a tabloid newspaper. Fisticuffs, a car chase and screamed insults followed when it was discovered that one of the wedding guests had sold snapshots of the bride and groom to an Oregon publication.

In January 1994 Jeff Gillooly, Miss Harding's first husband, plotted to inflict a knee injury on Miss Harding's then Olympic ice-skating rival, Nancy Kerrigan. Miss Harding pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and paid \$160,000 (£106,000) in fines and costs.

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Gibraltar tension rises after drug chase death

By DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR AND EDWARD OWEN

A DRAMATIC helicopter pursuit of a drug-running power boat racing for the Spanish coast ended yesterday when the helicopter crashed, killing a Civil Guard.

The smugglers apparently threw an oar into the aircraft's tail rotor.

The incident has caused a new diplomatic tug-of-war over the disputed territory between Britain and Spain. The boat was registered to a Briton and the involvement of a Gibraltarian has renewed Spanish anger over the use of Gibraltar for the illicit import of tobacco and drugs into Spain, often from North Africa.

Spain immediately imposed tough new border controls on routes between Spain and Gibraltar, causing delays of up to three hours for cars and increasing the transit time for pedestrians from a few minutes to half an hour.

César Braña, the Civil Governor of Cadiz, announced the imposition of "severe and strict" controls after the death of José Muntildaoz Hidalgo, a Civil Guard aircraft mechanic.

The helicopter pilot and his communications officer were uninjured in the crash after three men in the Gibraltar-registered rigid inflatable boat

had allegedly dumped some 1,300lb of cannabis on a beach at Barbate de Franco, near Cape Trafalgar.

Yesterday David Brighty, the British Ambassador to Madrid, was summoned by the Spanish Foreign Ministry to hear José Rodríguez Spilini, Madrid's head of European diplomacy, express Spain's "profound irritation" at the incident and complain that Britain had failed to introduce effective measures on the Rock to combat illicit activities.

A Spaniard escaped from the scene but two other men, a Moroccan and a Gibraltarian, were arrested.

Señor Braña said yesterday that a broken oar was found in the smugglers' boat, indicating that it may have been thrown into the helicopter's machinery. Eye-witnesses spoke on Spanish television of the aircraft's runner hitting the water and knocking it out of control.

In Gibraltar on Wednesday, Paul Alan Tremayne, a Briton who is registered as owner of the vessel, was detained on suspicion of wasting police time after he reported the boat stolen. Royal Gibraltar police have indicated that his report came after news of the incident had broken on radio. Rigid



A powerful rigid inflatable boat, of the sort used by smugglers between North Africa and Spain via Gibraltar, speeds towards the Rock

inflatable boats are used by smugglers because of their long range. They often move across the strait at high speed at night without lights.

In an almost daily duel, Spanish Civil Guard helicopters and launches try to catch the smugglers who race across to Spain with cheap tobacco from the Rock as well as hashish brought from Morocco. Recently Britain had

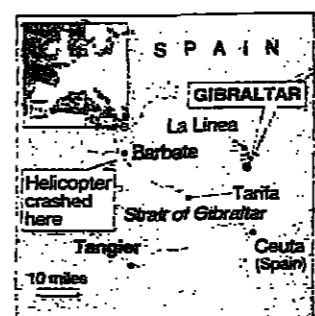
agreed to ban the use of some 200 high-powered speedboats, with names such as *Midnight Express*, that were moored in Gibraltar's marinas. Their crews would cross the few hundred yards to Spain when the all-clear, or the presence of a bribed Spanish official, was signalled by mobile telephones.

Last July the Gibraltar authorities seized all 64 rigid

inflatable boats based on the Rock. Strict quotas and controls on cheap American tobacco were later introduced, resulting in an end to the widespread tobacco smuggling. Spain partly relaxed controls at the frontier last autumn in response to the move and Gibraltar authorities demanded detailed paperwork and requirements from the boat owners. As a result,

only 12 vessels were returned in rules aimed at avoiding owners obtaining court orders which on previous occasions have succeeded in defeating legislation. However, it is known that some smugglers had moved their bases to Ceuta, the Spanish North African enclave, and some Spanish coastal villages.

Leading article, page 17



London pledges action to halt the smugglers' speedboats

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN last night expressed "deep regret" at the death of the Spanish Civil Guard killed while pursuing drug smugglers near Gibraltar, and insisted that it was committed to stamping out smuggling on the Rock.

The Foreign Office said it would co-operate in the investigation, and announced an immediate check on the speedboats licensed in Gibraltar. However, a spokesman said that since July there had been tighter control on the licensing of

fast inflatable boats, and the Gibraltar Government had reduced their number from 65 to 11.

The Foreign Office, while not rejecting Spain's protest to David Brighty, the British Ambassador, suggested that this did not take account of the co-operation between Britain and Spain to curb smuggling into southern Spain. It noted that the 30-minute meeting had been "businesslike" — diplomatic language for sharp and cool — and said the ambassador had reiterated Britain's commitment to last year's measures to tighten law and order in Gibraltar. The Government is

embarrassed that the incident has revived Spanish protests over Gibraltar at a time when it hoped that Gibraltar's new laws on drug smuggling and money laundering, enacted last July, would reduce tensions with Madrid over the Rock.

Earlier, Britain's troubled relations with Gibraltar led to a confrontation between the Foreign Office and the Government of Joe Bossano, the Chief Minister, that almost culminated 18 months ago in the suspension of the Rock's constitution and the imposition of direct rule.

At issue was the chorus of complaints from Spain and Brussels that Gibraltar was becoming a haven for cigarette smuggling, drug running and money laundering. Madrid accused Mr Bossano of refusing to co-operate in counter-drug smuggling, and imposed draconian border restrictions, with long delays and rigorous customs searches. Britain protested to Madrid. But at the same time the Foreign Office demanded that Gibraltar take swift steps to curb smuggling and comply fully with EU banking directives.

From the summer of 1994 until

December, Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, had an acrimonious correspondence with Mr Bossano, insisting that he do more to put into effect dozens of EU directives that were being circumvented. Britain offered to send over officials to help draft legislation. It gave Mr Bossano a deadline of January 1995 to comply.

Finally, as relations between Britain, Spain and Gibraltar became ever more tense, Mr Hurd and Javier Solana, then Spanish Foreign Minister, met in London to agree on measures to halt the use of the Rock for smuggling and ensure

that differences on Gibraltar did not derail overall relations between Britain and Spain.

Britain is responsible for Gibraltar's dealings with the EU and its external relations under the 1969 constitution. The British Government, wary of suggestions that it is ready to see an eventual transfer of sovereignty, has refused to discuss Gibraltar's status in the regular meetings with Spain. Under the Treaty of Utrecht, which ceded the Rock to Britain, the territory cannot opt for independence: if Britain relinquishes control, sovereignty returns to Spain.

Riddle of Paris murder house

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

THE mysterious and violent deaths of two successful architects and their children is gripping France and puzzling police. The bodies of Piotr Zakrzewski, 48, his wife Marguerite, 46, and their sons, Adam, 16, and Arthur, 12, were found this week in the family home in Sceaux, a wealthy Paris suburb.

Marguerite Zakrzewski was hanging in her nightdress in the stairwell. At her feet lay Arthur, who apparently died from strangulation. A thick rope around his neck was attached to the banister. The knots were described by one investigator as having been "loosened, as if they had been undone after the murder".

Upstairs, Piotr lay on the couple's bed, his throat slit. There were several knife wounds to his body. On the ground floor, Adam lay dead in his bedroom. His throat had also been cut.

The bodies were found on Tuesday afternoon by a friend who attended the nearby Lycée Lakanal, where the brothers were pupils. The boy had invited Adam to the cinema on Sunday but he had refused without giving a reason. When neither brother attended classes after the Easter weekend, the boy visited the Zakrzewski's house. Through the half-open door, he saw Mme Zakrzewski's body.

The police think that either the family were the victims of a murderer, or the husband and two sons were killed by Mme Zakrzewski before she committed suicide.

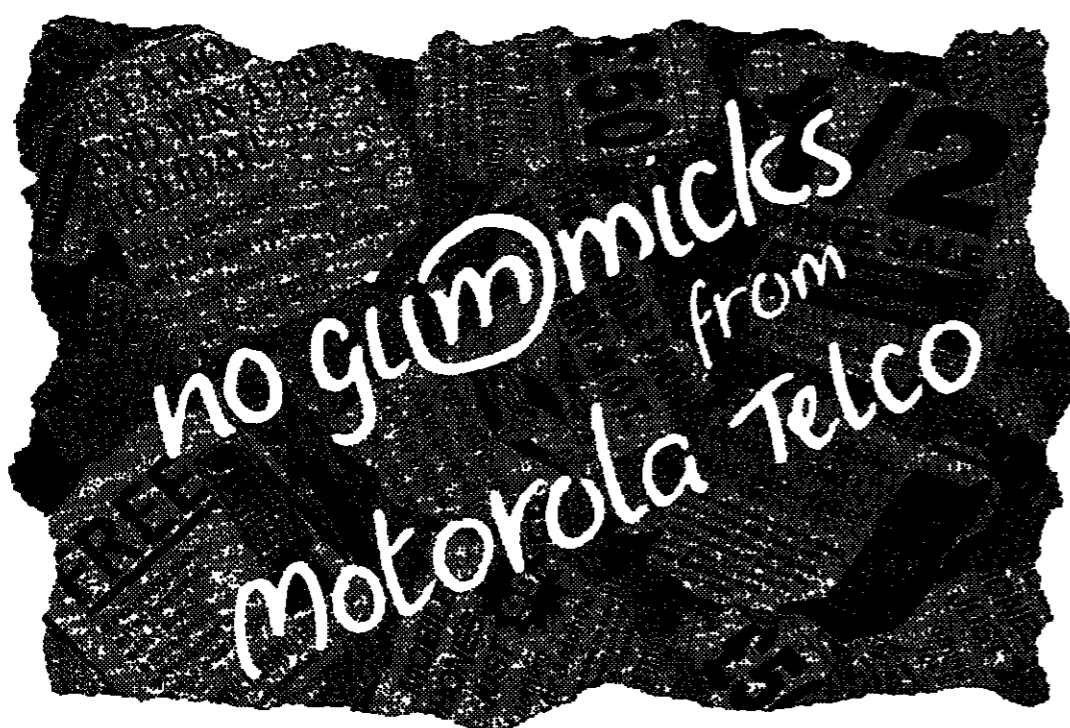
Investigators have ruled out burglary. Everything was clean as if it had been tidied up, the police say.

The police suspect that the father and elder son were killed in their sleep. No trace of blood was found on Mme Zakrzewski's body or clothing. The weapon used to kill Piotr and Adam is missing.

According to a female relation interviewed by the police, the couple did not have any financial or marital problems. They emigrated to France from Poland in the early 1970s, studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts before founding their award-winning architecture firm, PLL, in 1981.



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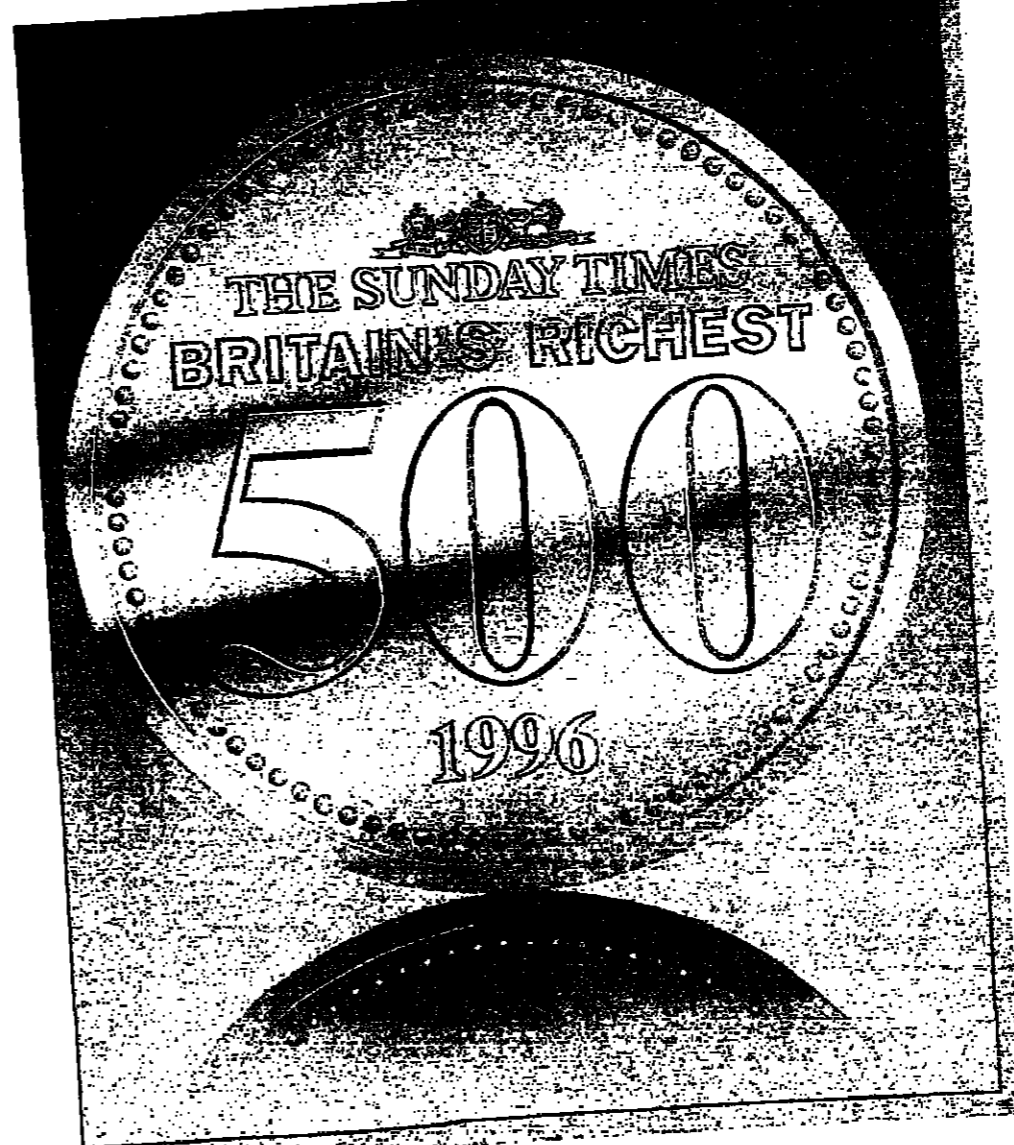


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Michael Binyon takes a wry father's view of all-night jam sessions and sweaty pub gigs



The Replicant Saints go marching in — and, they hope, up — with, clockwise from left, Struan Robertson, Tom Rogerson, Martin Binyon, Tom Dunn, Eva Rice and William Prideaux

My son, the rock star

Of course if he had wanted to play in an orchestra, I would have been intrusively ambitious. You must practise. You must sit the exams. Don't waste your time at parties. Listen to this player, that recording, come to this concert and I'll get tickets.

I could see the legend beginning: the seven-year-old in Russia taking piano lessons with Natasha, the encouraging school reports from Mr Johns, the teenager trumpeting Bach on the school chapel organ, evenings of Beethoven and Mozart on the Yamaha... My son, the pianist, I would perhaps boast one day. But no. Reality usually dawns

on most parents, and when the house shook all day with the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Muddy Waters, I knew that the classical world had been vanquished by the more raucous tastes of a different generation. So it was to be pop instead. Drums all over the house. A keyboard on the dining-room table. Practice with the band: the first gig in a pub: all-night jamming sessions with Tom on the guitar trying out new rhythms, new lyrics. The first vital demonstration tape. But my son, the pop star? Impossible.

Well, not quite impossible it seems. The Replicant Saints have begun to go marching in — all six of them. They filled

the fox room at the Dog and Fox more than a year ago — mostly with friends, girlfriends and supporters, of course, but with dry ice and some strobe lighting they put on a lively show. Things have got a bit more professional since then. The amplifiers have got bigger, the keyboard more sophisticated, the lyrics more subtle and wistful.

At Christmas they played at the Half Moon in Putney — a vital first rung up the pop ladder, Martin insisted. We sneaked in for half an hour, and an uncertain pride vied in me with nostalgia — didn't I remember the raw energy, the fug, the showiness and the beery cheers in the hallowed

Sixties? Even Martin's great-aunt, 85, was impressed. "They make a terrible noise. And I really don't think the girl knows how to move at all." It was a compliment bound to assure success.

Eva, the back-up singer, does know how to move, of course. Better still, with the surname Rice and a father who has written enough lyrics to make all Argentina cry, she knows how to move the diarists and columnists. Her picture and the Replicant Saints made a national newspaper. A Bristol radio station followed. A Sunday tabloid promised a profile. And they all found an irresistible theme: not only is it a case of like father, like

daughter, but the men around her with wild hair and zany clothes are all Etonians. A toffs' band! Now, there's an item for the pop press. All that money spent on posh education, and today's OEs are going out to govern not the colonies but the other field where Britain now reigns supreme. A whole new meaning, perhaps, to the Playing Fields of Eton.

We parents are less convinced. "You still have to pass the exams." I found myself saying, censoriously, "Have you done any work yet on the Victorians? What can you tell me about *In Memoriam*? You haven't even read any Tennyson yet."

But for a 21-year-old the question whether Gallipoli failed because of poor execution or was a flawed idea from the start seems less urgent than how to design a striking cover for the demo tape or how much improvisation should take over from the basic rhythm.

And then what about jobs? When the Saints, scattered now across the universities of the country, get together for practice there is talk of a proper tour: expenses-only appearances at anniversary bashes and college functions rising through pubs, clubs and a nice little earner at an Oxford ball to bigger halls and more ambitious venues.

Perhaps I should be dreaming of the bonanza, the moment when the star will buy his little old parents a cottage in Cornwall. Dream on. "Haven't you been down to the careers centre yet?" I nag. "Haven't you any idea what you want to do?"

One promising post-Saints career would be a politician. It seems that every Tory minister nowadays spent his youth in a pop band, and some, such as John Redwood, seem to be reverting to happier, wetter days: the outspoken backbencher now confesses to liking Britpop and is fishing for the student vote. And wasn't Tony Blair in a student rock group? Down Under, Paul Keating managed a band before taking up politics. And in Norway at least the addition carries on: the Finance Minister plays a guitar in a group, and several of his Cabinet colleagues shed their suits at weekends and make their statements with guitars and

drums: all quite natural in Norway.

There comes the dreadful realisation that I ought to take a vague, parental interest in the field. I know about plectrums, I can distinguish some elements of Britpop, I am used to James Brown and the JB's and like blues in limited doses.

I have discussed touch-sensitive keyboards and synthesizers with other colleagues also being pressed for a generous parental loan. Beyond that, it is hopeless.

But all communication is not lost: Martin also cherishes a passion for opera and is trying, gently, to educate an illiterate father.

"Do you want to go to *La traviata*? Shall I try for tickets?" It's code, of course, and means: I want to get to this performance, but I need you to buy the tickets. I usually fall for it. And I shall sneak into the Half Moon on Tuesday when the Replicant Saints are back, by special request. Up there, slick in black, will be My Son the Pop Star.

It seems every Tory minister spent his youth in a pop group

Ambition that flies sky high

Norris McWhirter on the deadly urge to break records

In the United States a sudden large crowd is often compared to a posse of lawyers around a lift accident. Yesterday's tragic light aircraft crash in the business area of Cheyenne, Wyoming, by a seven-year-old "pilot", Jessica Dubroff, seems likely to create both legal precedents and new laws.

Taking off in a rainstorm on Wednesday from Half Moon Bay, California, the Cessna 177B four-seater had aboard the 4ft 2in tall Jessica, her father, Lloyd Dubroff, and a flight instructor. Jessica was fitted with leg extensions to enable her to reach the foot controls. Before take-off she pronounced: "I am going to break the record."

Her father confined himself to the comment: "I would be more worried about her horseback riding."

Knowing the vicarious pleasure that parents and grandparents derive from the precocity of their progeny, successive editors of the *Guinness Book of Records* have long had a policy of censoring the publication of records of, for instance, the youngest swimmer or the youngest marathon runner.

There can be few sights more cruel than loving parents working on their reflected glory image. One of the most harrowing cases was the postwar one of an Australian father, determined that his four-month-old daughter should become the world's youngest unaccompanied swimmer.

The record to which the late Jessica Dubroff was probably referring was so heavily publicised on the front pages of American newspapers that it appears in order to recite it. On February 24, 1983, the freckled Cody A. Locke flew a Cessna 150 solo near Medulla airfield, Mexico, aged nine years 316 days.

In Britain the extremes are less extreme. The RAF, during the Second World War, accepted a certain Thomas Dobney for flying training. It was only when he was sporting his "wings" and the three stripes of a sergeant that he admitted that he had overstated his age and was in fact only 15 years 5 months old. However, he was not even the British record holder because, in Decem-

ber 1942, an aircraft-crazy boy named James Studeley, aged 14 years 5 months, not only took off on a maiden joyride in an unattended Piper Cub trainer aircraft, but landed it in one piece. He then opened the door to help out his younger brother, a 13-year-old passenger. The local constabulary at Ludgershall, Wiltshire, were nonplussed as to what precise offence had been committed.

From a passenger's point of view the oldest pilot might seem almost as dangerous as the youngest. In 1979 Ed McCarty of Kimberley, Idaho, was still keeping his 30-year-old



Fatal flight: Jessica

Ercoupe in the air by dint of virtually rebuilding it, until he was 94.

The legendary Air Commodore Harold "Daddy" Probyn, CBE, DSO, who had flown in the First World War in the Royal Flying Corps, was still flying in Kenya 67 years later, aged 92. More recently in 1993, Stanley Wood (1896-1994) of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, was still taking the controls of a Piper Cherokee Warrior in a flying career which spanned 80 per cent of the history of aviation, which began in 1903, when the Wright brothers first flew in their stiff collars, ties and dark business suits at Kill Devil Hill, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

One can only suspect that Sir Christopher Chataway, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, had not got to hear of Stanley Wood. Sir Christopher records in *Who's Who* that he himself "briefly held the world 5,000-metre record" and clearly understands the human passion for breaking records.

30p

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April 11: The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Reception and Dinner at the outset of an Interfaith Meeting at Chartist College Conference Centre, Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

April 12: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr John Thompson (Deputy Consul-General in New York) at the Memorial Service for Miss Sharman Douglas which was held in St John's Church, 10 Grosvenor Avenue, New York, this afternoon.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was represented by Dr Christopher Burdess.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 12: The Princess Royal, Alexandra, Princess of Hohenlychn, Board, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, today visited Ailsa Craig Lighthouse on board *MY Pharos*.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 12: The Duke of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy

His Royal Highness was represented by the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Hon Aylmer Tyron, which was held in the Royal Chapel, St James's Palace, London SW1, this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 12: The Princess of Wales this evening attended a Piano Recital in aid of the Voices Foundation at the Royal Festival Hall, London SW1.

April 13: The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon opened the Swan Pool and Leisure Centre, London Road, Buckingham, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, Commander the Lord Costello.

Afterwards His Royal Highness opened the Rental Unit at Milton Keynes General Hospital.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon received Commander Thomas Cunningham on assuming command of *HMS Gloucester*.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Northern Lighthouse Board, will visit Davaar Lighthouse, Campbeltown, at 8.45; and will visit Sanda Lighthouse, Sanda, Kintyre, at 11.00.

Mr Alan Aychekow, playwright,
67; Mr Bill Brydon, television
producer, 54; Miss Montserrat Caballé,
opera singer, 63; Mr Brian
Connell, writer and broadcaster,
60; Miss Elspet Gray (Lady Ridd),
actress, 67; Mr H.L. Hewitt,
journalist, 68; John Ingham, actor,
67; Mrs Right Rev John T.
Hughes, former Bishop of the
Tropics, 88; Mr Uwe Kitzinger,
former President, Templeton Col-
lege, 69; Mr John L. Macfarlane,
of Glenmick, 66; Mr A.W. Mabbis,
archivist, 75; Mr Bryan Magee,
writer, 66; Air Marshal Sir Harold
Maquire, 34; Dr E.C. McEneaney,
Dr Harried accountants, 73; Dr
William Nicolle, educationist, 51;
Dr Harold Penrose, test pilot and
air historian, 92; Lady Rickerts,
former chairman, National Association
of Citizens' Advice Bureaux,
69; George Robert Stoddart, 80;
Mrs Wendy Savage, obstetrician
and gynaecologist, 61.

British Safety Council
Mr James Tye, Director-General of the British Safety Council, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Armourers' Hall for the council's Diploma in Safety Management awards.

IRTHS: Giuseppe Tartini, composer, Istria, 1692; John Gibson, 1st Earl of Durham, tradesman, London, 1742; Alexander Ostrovsky, dramatist, Moscow, 1823.

DEATHS: Boris Gdunov, Tsar ofussia 1598-1605, Moscow, 1605; Charles Burney, music historian and composer, London, 1814; Eodor Chiallapi, bass singer and actor, Paris, 1938; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd American President 1933-45, Warm Springs, Georgia, 1945; Antonio Persner, sculptor, Paris, 1962; Joe Louis, the 'Brown Bomber', world heavyweight boxing champion 1937-49, Las Vegas, 1981; Alvin Karpis, Palon, writer, Durban, 1938; Sugar Ray Robinson, boxer, Culver City, California, 1989.

The Union Jack became England's official flag, 1606.

The American Civil War began with the Siege of Fort Sumter, South Carolina, 1861.

Vice-President Harry S. Truman succeeded Roosevelt as American President, 1945.

Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union made the first successful flight into space in *Vostok 1*, 1961.

have spent my strength for nothing, and to no purpose. Yet my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God.

Isaiah 49 : 4 (NIV)

ANDERSON - On 25th March 1996, to Penelope (née Nelson) and Nicholas, a son, Charles (Charles) Henry.

ARUP - On April 3rd, to Liz and Clive, a son, Arup, a son, Toby John, a brother for Sophie and Rupert.

WITTY - On 6th April, to Caroline and Fred, a daughter, Isabelle Eleanor Grace.

GRULL - On 10th April, to Jessica, Sam and Harriet.

DEO Graduates.

WOOGLAR - On April 5th 1996, to Mary-Clare (née Mole) and Dermot, a son, Edward Benedict Finn, a son, Edward Benedict Finn.

BYFIELD - On April 6th, to Teresa (nee Gervasi) and Stephen, a son, James John, a brother for Alexandra.

BYFIELD - On 29th March in Singapore, to Lisa and Anthony, a daughter, Marie Francesca, a sister for Freya.

COOPER - On 5th April 1996, to David and Susan, a son, James.

BUDGETT - Maurice Harvey died on Easter Sunday aged 85 years. Deceased husband of Margaret. He was a devoted father and grandfather. Funeral Service at Cambridge City Crematorium, West Chichester, on Tuesday 16th April 1996 at 11.30am.

HARVEY - Sarah Jane aged 95 1/2 years died. Joan, widow, a devoted mother and grandmother. Flowers please. Burial desired, for Elizabeth, at Cranbrook in Kent.

COLLEPORTHANE - To Anne Marie (nee Macosack) and John Macosack, 10000 Macosack Hospital, Hone Koro on 11th April 1996, a daughter, Amelia Amber, a sister for Collins.

DOLLING-WALTERS - On Good Friday, April 5th 1996, at 2.30 am at Guy's Hospital, a son, Alexander James, a brother for William.

EMERY - On 11th April 1996, at 11.15 am at Guy's Hospital, a son, Alexander James, a brother for William.

HIGGINS - Commander Royal Navy Husband of Mrs. Margaret Higgins, 10000 Macosack Hospital, Hone Koro on 11th April 1996, a daughter, Amelia Amber, a sister for Collins.

WATSON - On 11th April 1996, at 11.15 am at Guy's Hospital, a son, Alexander James, a brother for William.

ROTHWORTH - On April 10th, to Diana (nee Lewis) and four daughters, Ann, Susan, Elizabeth and Toni, a daughter, Annabeth Sarah.

brother for Luke.

JADGETT - On 30th March, to Emma (née Swifton) and Jonathan, a daughter, Peggy. Mary, a sister for George.

JAMESON DION - On March 30th in Montreal, to Emma and Bernard, a daughter.

cremation. Family flowers only. Burial at 10 AM at St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth. A Requiem

JAUGHAN - (Bertram) to Elizabeth, a daughter. Much loved. Hazel's flower place on Tuesday. Funeral at 12.45 p.m.

Stephen, a beautiful baby boy, Henry Anthony. Funeral Service, tel: (01700) 486183. London SW18 on 16th April.

THIS enigmatic ruin in Newport Rhode Island, long claimed to be a remnant of the Norse colonisation of America, has turned out to be solidly 17th-century (Nigel Hawkes writes). It probably owes its origins not to Vinland but to Warwickshire.

The Newport Tower, seen here in a rustic painting done by Gilbert Stuart in the 1770s, has been a ruin since at least that time, and features in a romantic poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *The Skeleton in Armour*. Claims that it might be a Nordic church built in the 12th century have been countered by a simpler explanation, that it was the ruin of a mill built by Benedict Arnold, the 17th-century Governor of Rhode Island.

Now two professors, Jan Heinemeier of Aarhus University and Högge Jungner of Helsinki University, have carbon-dated the mortar in Newport Tower. Mortar consists of calcium hydroxide mixed with water and sand, which hardens by taking up carbon dioxide from the air to form calcium carbonate.

The carbon-14 content of the mortar

can thus give a measure of its age. But the method has its pitfalls, because the mortar may contain old limestone, or carbon from sand or fillers, which would give too old a date. Delayed hardening of the mortar could have the opposite effect, giving a younger age.

The two scientists believe that they have minimised the risk of both these errors, and produce a date of between 1635 and 1698. There is only one chance in 20 of the tower having been built outside this period, they report.

Archaeological work on the tower has been supported by the Committee for Research on Norse Activities in North America, who would doubtless have preferred to believe that the tower is still of considerable historical importance. It argues Dr Johannes Hertz, Deputy Antiquary of the Royal National Museum of Denmark.

He sees striking similarities between the arched structure of the tower and a windmill in Chesterton, Warwickshire, reputedly the work of Inigo Jones. The Chesterton Mill was built in 1632 on the orders of Sir Edward Poyte, and is a forerunner of the follies that landowners

later used to adorn their parks.

Build of local limestone, the Chesterton mill rests on six semicircular masonry walls, and has a circular moulded eave. Though only legend links Inigo Jones to the building, it was clearly designed by an architect of quality. The diameter of the mill is 22ft 9in.

The Newport Tower, though non-identical, is certainly very similar. It has eight arches instead of six, and the stonework is rough-cast rather than the smooth ashlar at Chesterton. But the diameter, at 23ft, is almost identical, and the masonry was originally covered in smooth render to simulate ashlar.

Whether Benedict Arnold had ever seen the Chesterton mill is unknown, but even if he had not it is quite possible that the builders' workers joining the colony would have brought information about it with them.

"By constructing his mill in the same spirit Governor Arnold made a substantial contribution to the creation of a New England on foreign territory," Dr Hertz says. Undaunted, the Norse committee is continuing to search for evidence to back its claims.

[illegible]

ington on the South Eastern
 in the Stuart Fairwood to be
 a District Judge on the North Essex
 Circuit.
Judicials
 Sir Carol Edwina Taylor to be a
 full-time chairman of Industrial
 Tribunals from April 29. She will
 be assigned to the London South
 Region.
 Mr James Aiden O'Brien Quinn to
 be a full-time legal member of the
 Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

Recent estates include (in not before 1900):

Sir Derek Roy Munson, of Radcliffe, Suffolk. £1,454,354.

Sir Mary Francis Ann Stuart, of Waddeley Corbett, Hereford and Worcester. £668,943.

Sir Minnie Teaklin, of London. £59,480.

Baroness Mary Montagu West of Wallingborough, Surrey. £642,565.

Sir Marjorie Louise Wilkinson, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. £642,511.

Their Royal Highnesses Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present at the funeral of Lady William Montagu Douglas Scott, held on Wednesday, April 10 at Holy Trinity Church, Melrose.

The Rev Dr D.W. Wood officiated, assisted by Canon O.L.S. Dover.

Readings were by the Duke of Buccleuch, KT, and the Earl of Home (nephews) and the Hon Lordess Mary Gordon (granddaughter).

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The arrangement has been made between Professor Joseph Moran, Director of the Scottish Centre for Japanese Studies (SCJS), and Masahiko Waga, Tama University and chairman of the Japanese Study Group, to appoint a permanent teacher.

The initial appointment is planned for the 1996-97 academic year.

The Kyushu Power Company of Japan has given £100,000 to SCJS to assist students to take research degrees at Stirling in Japanese Studies.

DEATHS	DEATHS	MEMORIAL SERVICES	LEGAL NOTICES	FLATSLAND
WORTHLEY - Thomas Shield.	SAVAGE - Kenneth Andrew.		NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF	MAIRLE AND

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

St. Ignace Children's Family
 Open House on Monday 18th
 April at St. Ignace Church,
 3 pm. No flowers
 please but donations to
 St. Ignace Family Abbey Church
 Parish Fund Beneficial.

St. Ignace. A Memorial
 Thanksgiving Service will be
 held at Beaulieu Abbey
 on Monday 18th April at 10.30
 am. Helen Mary wife of the late
 Robert Henry Turner, since
 1970 resident at Beaulieu,
 but previously lived for
 many years on the Isle of
 Mull, Scotland. Funeral
 Service 1 pm on Monday
 19th April at Christchurch,
 CHICHESTER. Rev. Canon
 St Thomas Church, Havant.

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[illegible]

<p>in Jersey and the late Philip. Funeral private.</p>	<p>LEIGH MILES, Oxford on Saturday 20th April 1996 at 2.30 pm.</p>	<p>Date: 4 April 1996. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD. G. Hume.</p>	<p>PLATWATER London's foremost for 1970's Professionals for clearing services. 0171-892 8491</p>	<p>TEL: 0171-892 8491 Or Postcard</p>
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Mr R.S. Black
and **Miss J.E. Bonds**
The engagement is announced between Roderick, younger son of Mrs Elizabeth Stuart Black, of the late Mr Iain Stuart Black, of Clarkson, Glasgow, and Judith Elizabeth, daughter of Mr John

Mr A.H. Hobart
and **Miss C.J. Dennis**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Hobart, of Buckland, Oxfordshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Dennis, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Bonds
The engagement is announced between Mrs. Marie Bonds, of Hindhead, Surrey.

Mr D.G. Brockson and Miss C. Rys
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Brockson, of Sutton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Henri Rys, of Paris, France.

Mr D.E. Brown and Miss J.M.S. Wallace
The engagement is announced between David, second son of Mr and Mrs Peter Brown, of Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sandy Wallace, of Heatham, Norfolk.

Mr N.C. Donaldson and Miss S.L.M. Staughton
The engagement is announced between Niall, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Donaldson, of Auchtermear, Perthshire, and Sarah, younger daughter of Sir Christopher and Lady Staughton, of Serratt, Herefordshire.

Mr S.J. Powell and Miss N.J. Stones
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs S.J. Powell, of Wherwell, Hampshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Stones, of Cranham, Lincolnshire.

Mr N.J.S. Taylor-Young and Miss S.C.L. Bennett
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.K. Taylor-Young, of Widford, Hertfordshire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.A. Bennett, of Brencley, Kent.

Mr L. Turnbull and Miss L.F. Goldsmith
The engagement is announced between Luke, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Turnbull, of Llangynidr, Llanidloes, and Lucinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alec Goldsmith, of Torbridge, Kent.

Mr A.D. Knill-Jones and Miss K.A. Boatsman
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr D. Knill-Jones, of Cheam, Surrey, and Mrs N. Holt, of Over Stratton, Somerset, and Kay, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Boatsman, of Little Chesterford, Essex.

Mr P. Thompson and Miss M.S. Ortega
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of the late Mr Alan Thompson and of Dr Janet Thompson, both of London, and Megan Colleen, only daughter of Mr John Ortega, and Mrs Leslie Adams, of New Haven, Connecticut.

Mr J.K. Thornton and Miss S.L.E. Nicholls
The engagement is announced between Jolyon, fourth son of Mr and Mrs Brian Thornton, of Lydney, Gloucestershire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Nicholls, of Diss, Norfolk.

Mr J.S. Wells and Miss E.L. Andrews
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Wells, of Wrentham, Norfolk, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs E.L. Andrews, of St. John's Wood, London, and of St Mary, Norfolk.

Mr J.N. Young and Miss K.J. Lee
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ray Young, of Shepperton-on-Thames, Middlesex, and Katharine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Lee, of Sutton, Surrey.

Marriage
Major E.F. Guest and Mrs M.A.E. King
The marriage took place on April 6, 1996, at Green Shadoks, Kilgill, Cullinder, between Major Michael Guest and Mrs Alison King.

Appointments
The Rev Ian Gooding, Assistant Curate, The Dorcan Church, Swindon (Bristol) to be Temp.

The Rev Langley Marish Team Ministry, v responsibility for St Francis (Oxford).

The Rev Simon Griffiths, Chaplain and Succentor, Rochester Cathedral (Rochester): now Chaplain to Chichester Institute of Higher Education (Chichester).

The Rev Brian Hall, Assistant Curate, St John's, Mansfield: to be Associate Priest, Curate, St Andrew's, Stegley and All Saints (Chapel of ease), Stanton Hill (Southwell).

The Rev Pauline Hardy, Associate Priest, Radcliffe and Chackmore: to be Associate Priest, Nash w Thornton, Beauchampton and Thornborough (Oxford).

The Rev David Henley, Rectory, St Mary and All Saints, Droxford, St Andrew, Meonstone v Corhampton and w St Peter and St Paul, Exton (Portsmouth): to be also an Honorary Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral.

The Rev Clare Herbert: to be Assistant Curate, St Martin in the Fields (London).

The Rev Tony Jeaynes, Vicar, St James, New Brighton, Wallasey: to be Rector, Holy Trinity, Tarleton (Blackburn).

The Rev Hugh Kent, Warden and Chaplain of Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing (Glooucester) to be Rector, North Bockingham (Newbury).

The Rev Graham Low, Curate, Good Shepherd, Brighton: to be Team Vicar, Langley Green, Ifield (Chichester).

The Rev Nick Mansfield, Team Vicar, St Michael, Dinsland, Widenes: to be Priest Curate, St Luke and St Oswald, Preston (Blackburn).

The Rev Andrew Mansson-Bradford, Curate, Torsholmne (Blackburn): to be Vicar, St George, Brighton (Chichester).

The Rev Andrew Mayes, Vicar, Saladesin (Chichester): now also an Honorary Canon of the diocese of the Niger Delta, Province of Nigeria.

The Rev Brian Mayne, Chaplain HM Young Offenders Institute, Northallerton (York): to be Chaplain, Lancaster Farms, Lancaster (Blackburn).

The Rev Bill Merrington, Vicar, St Paul's, Leamington Spa: to be also Rural Dean of Warwick and Leamington (Coventry).

The Rev Rupert Metcalf, Curate, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin (Dublin and Glendalough): to be Assistant Chaplain in Costa Blanca, Spain (Epoque).

The Rev Roger Pecker, Vicar St Mary, Bridgewater and Chilton Trinity and Durliegh and Rural Dean of Bridgewater: to be also a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral

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ARTS 29-31
Promoter and critic
clash in the great
Bohème debate



EDUCATION 33
Have I got news
for you, says
Trevor McDonald



SPORT 34-40
Australians trying
to set new rules
for life in London

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
Pages 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

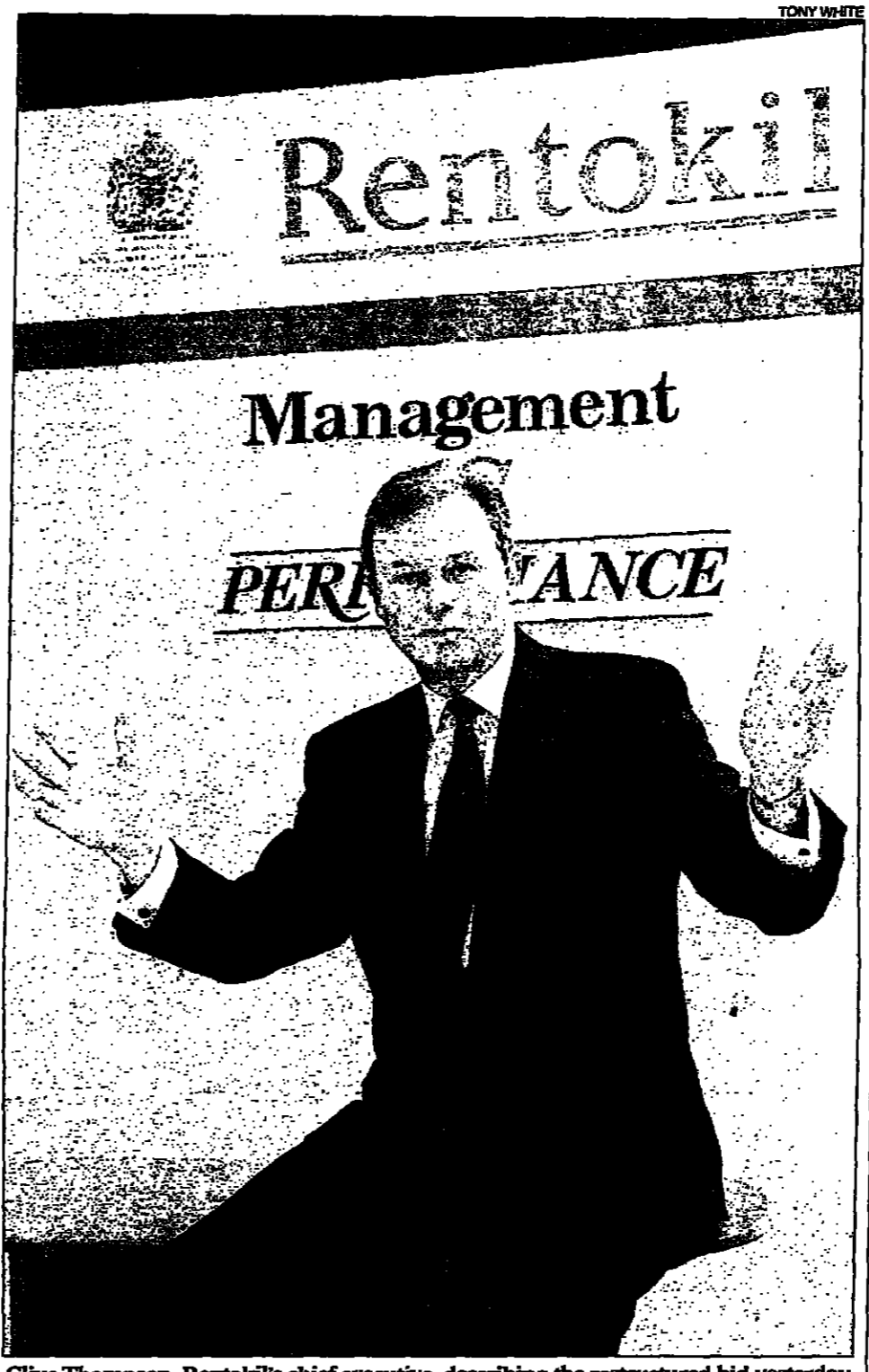
**Debt trap
eased by
housing
price rise**

By KAREN ZAGOR
A STEADY rise in housing prices has helped to lift nearly 300,000 people out of negative equity in the first three months of this year, and there are signs that the housing market is continuing to improve, according to two reports released today.
Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS Limited, said that there was a 22.7 per cent drop in households in negative equity to 964,000 in the first quarter, compared with the last quarter of 1995. This is not only the largest decline in three years, it is also the first time households in negative equity have fallen below 1 million since 1992. The number of households with insufficient equity to sell their home and buy another is still high, at 2.1 million.
Mr Thomas attributed the decline in negative equity largely to strong price gains that had benefited first-time buyers in East Anglia, the South West and Greater London, areas where the negative equity crisis was greatest.
Mr Thomas's analysis was based on figures from the Halifax Building Society's House Price Index for the first quarter of 1996. This showed a 1.2 per cent improvement, on a seasonally adjusted basis, in house prices in March. On an annual basis, prices were 1.7 per cent higher. House prices have now risen for eight months in succession.
Nine out of the 12 UK regions showed an improvement in prices in the first quarter, with the strongest gains in Northern Ireland, Greater London and Wales. In the East Midlands, however, prices fell 0.7 per cent in the three months and they also eased slightly in East Anglia. Prices in Scotland held steady.
The Halifax is still expecting a 2 per cent increase in prices for the full year, but will review its forecast if the steady improvement continues.

Pennington, page 23

BET rejects improved £2.1bn bid by Rentokil

By ERIC REGULY
BET, the business services company, yesterday rejected Rentokil's improved £2.1 billion takeover bid and predicted that it had a strong chance of thwarting the final offer.
However, institutional shareholders and City analysts said that the offer, increased from £1.9 billion, is probably sufficient to ensure success. One analyst said: "I would have thought that Rentokil has done enough to win the fight. BET has done very well to get this much out of Rentokil."
John Clark, BET's chief executive, said: "Their new bid is no knock-out punch. I think our chances are excellent and the fight has just begun. We are very confident of delivering greater value to our shareholders as an independent company."
Rentokil, which is majority-owned by Sophus Berendsen of Denmark, said the new offer valued each BET share at 217.4p against the opening offer of 190.1p. It consists of nine new Rentokil shares, £10 in cash and 80p in special dividends for every 20 BET shares. The previous offer was nine new Rentokil shares and £8 in cash. There is a cash alternative of 202.5p per share, up from 179.5p.
Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, said: "We see this as a very full offer and, if anything, erring on the generous side."
BET argued that the new offer was mean. It noted that, excluding the special dividend, which works out to a net 4p per share, the bid is worth 209.8p, or only 1.1 per cent more than the closing price of BET shares on Wednesday.
BET shares rose less than 1p to 208.4p on volume of almost 40 million shares, while Rentokil lost 13p to 350p on the



Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, describing the restructured bid yesterday

**UBS
rejects
merger
talks**

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT
DIRECTORS of Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) last night voted unanimously to turn down the offer of merger talks with rival CS Holding. In a two-hour meeting last night, Dr Nikolaus Senn, chairman of UBS board, told fellow directors of an approach from its opposite number at CS Holding, Rainer Gut, last week.
UBS said its board was "taken aback by CS Holding's action, the more so as the latter's chairman requested a decision in principle from UBS before the group's general meeting of shareholders on April 16, indicating that this could influence the meeting's outcome." This appears to contradict CS Holding's earlier statement denying that it planned to back Martin Ebner's BK Vision, the investment fund that is UBS's largest shareholder, which plans to oppose the nomination of Robert Studer, UBS executive, to succeed Dr Senn as chairman at the meeting.
Mr Ebner's opposition to the nomination of Mr Studer and other directors was prompted by his battle with the UBS board over the implementation of a scheme to unify the bank's share structure.
The UBS statement said: "Although a big bank merger could well bring potential benefits in some lines of business, these would far from compensate for the many negative aspects of a merger between UBS and CS Holding. It would also place a great strain on the group's financial and management resources, thereby impairing its current strength."
The UBS refusal to hold talks raises serious questions for CS Holding, parent of Credit Suisse. By going public over its wishes to hold merger talks, CS Holding has acknowledged the difficulties it faces in domestic and international investment banking.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	2744.2	(-23.2)
Yield	3.96%	
FT-SE All share	1866.45	(-7.80)
Nikkei	21694.43	(-87.27)
New York		
Dow Jones	5489.36	(-16.82)*
S&P Composite	629.96	(-3.54)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Yield	5.94%	(5.94%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)
Future (Jun)		
STERLING		
New York		
\$	1.5128*	(1.5135)
London		
£	1.5131	(1.5095)
DM	2.2713	(2.2674)
FF	7.7180	(7.7080)
Sfr	1.8408	(1.8397)
Yen	164.10	(164.05)
£ Index	83.6	(83.7)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.5030*	(1.4975)
FF	5.1050*	(5.0930)
Sfr	1.2209*	(1.2150)
Yen	102.47*	(102.40)
\$ Index	95.7	(95.7)
Tokyo close Yen	108.45	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$20.75	(\$20.05)
GOLD		
London close	\$368.25	(\$364.65)
* denotes midday trading price		

Payout

National & Provincial Building Society members stand to receive average bonuses of £1,000 each after voting overwhelmingly yesterday to approve the £1.3 billion takeover by Abbey National. Some N&P members with balances of £50,000 or more who are also borrowers, will receive £4,750. Page 22

Gold prospect

Ashanti Goldfields, the Ghanaian mining company whose major shareholder is Lonrho, has continued its recent buying spree with the £290 million acquisition of Golden Shamrock Mines in Australia. Page 26, Trampus 24

Bank of Ireland tipped for B&W

By ROBERT MILLER
THE Bank of Ireland has emerged as clear favourite to announce a takeover of Bristol & West, the UK's ninth-largest building society, on Monday morning.
Bristol & West, which has assets of £9 billion and more than one million savers and borrowers who would be likely to receive average bonus payouts of between £750 and £1,000, yesterday declined to comment on speculation about its future.
The society announced that it was freezing new share accounts with immediate effect because of long queues of speculators at its branches hoping to cash in on takeover plans at the last minute.
Bank of Ireland has assets of nearly £20 billion and 27 branches in the UK, including ones in Cardiff, Glasgow, London, Manchester and Liverpool. The bank, Ireland's second largest, has made no

Worries depress shares

By PHILIP PANGALOS
POLITICAL worries ahead of the Staffordshire South East by-election and Wall Street's latest slide combined to depress shares in London yesterday.
Against the background of a near 200-point, three-session slide in New York, the FT-SE 100 index remained in negative territory all day. A partial recovery, after a positive start on Wall Street, was short-lived in volatile US trading. Suggestions that the US Federal Reserve was worried about inflation upset the Treasury market. The FT-SE 100 ended at 2,744.2, down 23.2 points.
A variety of bid speculation stories, hostile bid developments and broker recommendations helped Seaq volume swell to a healthy 889 million shares in after-hours trading. Stock market, page 24

Soros gives his blessing to Blair

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK
GEORGE SOROS, the powerful Wall Street investor who helped to force Britain out of the European exchange-rate mechanism, has come out in support of Tony Blair after meeting him in New York.
After a private meeting with Mr Blair, Mr Soros said that the Labour leader was "very refreshing". Praising Mr Blair's pro-European stance, he said that a Labour election victory would not "influence a scare in international investors".
Bankers and investment managers who met Mr Blair at the Wall Street offices of Barclays de Zoete Wedd said that he had presented policies that US investors in Britain would favour.
"If I were British, I would vote for him in a nanosecond," said one of those who attended a meeting with him. "He has the whole package. He is enormously intelligent and has an absolutely coherent set

Tax row, page 9

Alvis forges link to bid for 'battlefield taxi'



The Scorpion tank has helped to build Alvis's reputation

By ROSS TIEMAN AND PHILIP PANGALOS
ALVIS, which builds the Army's Scorpion and Stormer light tanks, has teamed up with Vickers and Thyssen-Henschel, of Germany, to bid for a £4 billion contract to build a new "battlefield taxi" for the armies of Britain, France and Germany.
Under a deal to be announced in the next few days, Vickers would build the main production run of personnel carriers. Alvis, Britain's leading specialist in light armoured vehicles, is expected to make specialist variants for the British Army.
Nick Prest, Alvis chairman, said Alvis's share in the programme would be significant. The collaboration is part of a wide-ranging shake-up in the European armoured vehicles industry stemming from Britain's decision to make the battlefield taxi, known to the Ministry of Defence as MRAP, the first common procurement of the European Arms Agency.
GKN, which builds the

Stock Market, page 24

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Sparkling debut for Cliveden

Cliveden, the luxury hotel operator, run at the former home of the Astor family, enjoyed a sparkling stock market debut. The shares ended their first day's trading with a 12p rise to 85p, against a 73p placing price. Volume amounted to 6.33 million shares traded. The hotel and country club business made profits of £1.86 million last year, on turnover of £6.4 million, with trading understood to be ahead this year. Cliveden, which has Viscount Astor as a non-executive director, was the home to Nancy Astor, the first woman MP and renowned hostess, from her marriage in 1905 into the Astor family.

Toys range extended

Toys and Company, maker of military uniforms, insignia and other regalia, is diversifying. A new range of enamelled boxes, cufflinks and ties is being offered to menswear shops and other retailers. In the year to December 31, the company returned to profit, making £264,538 before tax on sales up £1.1 million to £9.7 million compared with a loss during 1994 of £180,744. The directors are recommending a dividend of 4p a share.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.01	1.85
Austria Sch	16.96	15.46
Belgium Fr	49.80	45.30
Canada \$	2.157	1.997
Cyprus Cyp	0.784	0.863
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland MkP	7.06	7.01
France Fr	8.13	7.48
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	387.00	362.00
Hong Kong \$	12.33	11.33
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	4.100	4.620
Italy Lira	2481.00	2236.00
Japan Yen	178.90	162.50
Norway Kr	9.221	8.336
Netherlands Gld	2.697	2.457
New Zealand \$	2.37	2.15
Poland Zl	10.40	9.80
Portugal Esc	244.09	225.50
S. Africa Rd	8.77	5.97
Spain Ptas	167.00	161.00
Sweden Kr	10.80	10.00
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Taiwan Nts	114.16	105.16
USA \$	1.609	1.473

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Society function: Lord Shuttleworth, the N&P chairman, centre, facing hostile questioning during yesterday's special meeting in Manchester

N&P members give sweeping support to Abbey takeover

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE 1.4 million qualifying members of the National & Provincial Building Society yesterday voted overwhelmingly to approve the £1.3 billion takeover by Abbey National.

Members now stand to receive average bonuses of £1,000 each. Some members with balances of £50,000 or more who are also borrowers will receive £4,751.

At a special meeting of N&P

members in Manchester, 96 per cent of savers who voted favoured the takeover. For the takeover to succeed, 75 per cent of eligible savers had to vote "yes". A majority of borrowers were also in favour.

Before the vote was announced, Lord Shuttleworth, the N&P chairman, and Alistair Lyons, chief executive, faced a hostile reception from the 490-strong audience at the Nynex Centre. Some members

attacked the N&P board for failing to achieve a better price.

One investor accused the board of "bribing members with their own money" and said a membership "swelled by carpetbaggers" had been "asked to dispose of community assets and of a valuable inheritance". He asked: "Where do we stop this disposal of our heritage?" Other members called for

details of any "golden handshakes" the board would receive from Abbey National. Lord Shuttleworth denied this would happen.

Michael Hardem, of the campaign group Members for Conversion, who has campaigned for societies to convert to banks, congratulated the N&P but then claimed members were being robbed. N&P should have held out for £2 billion. He predicted: "In a

year's time we may find we have sold out for a song."

Many members paid tribute to N&P's branch staff. Lord Shuttleworth promised there would be no compulsory redundancies but an estimated 130 branches will be closed after the takeover.

The takeover must now be approved by the Building Societies Commission at a hearing on June 3. If it is confirmed, it will go ahead on August 5 and members will receive bonus payments at the beginning of September.

Savers who have had a share account with the society for less than two years will receive £500 in Abbey National shares. To qualify they must have had a share account with a balance of more than £100 between April 28, 1995, the date the takeover was announced, and December 31, 1995, the qualifying date.

Borrowers will get a fixed distribution of £500. Savers of more than two years' standing will get a payout of £750, which they can take in Abbey shares or cash. On top of this, they will get a bonus of 7 per cent of the balance of their account. The maximum eligible balance is £50,000.

Opraf deputy tipped to take over

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL industry insiders yesterday tipped Chris Stokes, the deputy head of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf), to succeed Roger Salmon, who resigned on Wednesday.

Although the Department of Transport appointed headhunters yesterday to find candidates for the £130,000-a-year job, there are expected to be few outside takers to what is being seen as a poisoned chalice.

Mr Stokes, 48, a lifelong

railwayman, has been working with Mr Salmon, who is leaving two years ahead of schedule, since the early days of Opraf and has won many plaudits for his work behind the scenes. He is seen as a safe pair of hands who has the advantage of detailed knowledge of how the highly complex franchising process work. He has also taken an increasingly public role in recent months, for example representing Opraf at the court cases that almost

scuppered privatisation before Christmas.

Roger Ford, editor of *Rail Privatisation News*, said: "He is a really good apparatchik who knows all the levers and can do the job. Chris will be good at nailing down all the details of franchising and there simply won't be time for someone new to play themselves in."

Mr Stokes joined British Rail in the late 1960s as a trainee and has since worked in a variety of jobs on the

railways, including stints at InterCity, London Midland and Network SouthEast, where he was deputy managing director. He was the first manager at Birmingham International station.

Mr Stokes also has the presentational advantage of catching the train to work from his home in Leighton Buzzard, in contrast to Mr Salmon, who embarrassed the Government when it was revealed that he is chauffeur-driven to the office each day.

Railtrack loyalists get £120 cut

By OUR TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

INVESTORS in the £1.8 billion Railtrack flotation next month will receive discounts on their second payments of up to £120 if they retain their shares for more than a year.

City advisers to the float said yesterday that the incentive terms will give a first-year return on Railtrack shares of up to 17 per cent, against interest rates of about 4 per cent in high street building societies.

The yield on the shares, which small investors can pay for in two roughly equal instalments, is expected to be about 7 per cent. Small investors will also be entitled to an initial discount, compared with institutional shareholders, of about 3 per cent.

Investors who register with share shops before May will also be entitled to a 15p discount on their second instalments, which will must be paid next spring. The offer applies only to the first 800 shares bought. Alternatively, there is a one-for-15 bonus share offer for up to 1,200 shares held until 31 May, 1997.

Pennington, page 23

Sega moves into gaming machines

By PAUL DURMAN

SEGA, the Japanese electronic games company, is expanding its European business into the fruit machines market with the acquisition of JPM Group.

JPM, which includes JPM International and Ace Coin Equipment, says it is the UK's leading manufacturer of gaming machines. Relaxed regulations and new export opportunities have led to "rocketing" sales and profits, it said.

The price paid to Games Network, JPM's Birmingham-based owner, was not disclosed. JPM's sales in the year to September 30 were £43 million. Annual sales have risen to more than £50 million.

Although in Europe Sega is known for its home electronics games, its origins in Japan lie in coin-operated gaming machines.

Sega said the purchase of JPM fitted with its ambition to be the world's biggest company in electronic entertainment. The JPM companies will trade autonomously within Sega.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Chinese warm to Euro aerospace

THE European consortium bidding against Boeing of America to partner China and South Korea in the development of a 100-seat passenger jet has taken heart from a big improvement in relations between China and France. France and China yesterday signed an undertaking to collaborate. The Chinese noted their "hope that the Europeans will win the contract".

British Aerospace is an equal partner, with Aerospatiale of France and Alenia of Italy, in the AIR regional aircraft marketing consortium negotiating to provide technical assistance in exchange for a stake in the programme. Under AIR proposals, the Asian Express 100 would share a common cockpit with the A320 twin-jet built by the European Airbus Industrie consortium in which BAE is also a member. If AIR is chosen, China would almost certainly be invited to participate in development of a super-jumbo by Airbus Industrie.

Schneider advances

SCHNEIDER, the French electrical equipment and construction group that completed a wide-ranging restructuring effort last year, reported a sharp rise in annual earnings yesterday. The company said that net profits last year were FF811 million, up 20.3 per cent from the previous year, while sales amounted to FF59.4 billion, up 6.2 per cent. The revamped group is now based on two businesses: Schneider Electric (electricity distribution), and Spie-Batignolles (construction and electrical installations).

EBRD to Bulgaria

BULGARIA, eastern Europe's economic laggard, is dusting down the red carpet to welcome thousands of top bankers and politicians to a key financial gathering this weekend. The country is hosting the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). About 4,000 delegates from more than 50 countries will descend on Sofia for the two-day meeting of the EBRD's governors that starts on Monday. It is preceded by a weekend packed with seminars, workshops and country presentations.

Record for grain

GRAIN prices soared to all time highs yesterday on worries that dry weather may damage US harvests and an official prediction that America's stocks of wheat are set to drop lower than at any time since 1948. The Department of Agriculture projected that end-season wheat stocks would fall to 305 million bushels, down 41 million from a forecast made in March. It also expected lower maize stocks. The estimates fuelled a raging bull market that has lifted grain futures to contract and historic highs.

GPA incurs \$9m loss

GPA GROUP, the Irish aircraft leasing company, reported a net loss of \$9 million in the three months to December 31 and said it had included a \$23 million exceptional charge for the securitisation deal that last month dragged it back from the brink of collapse. In the same quarter of 1994 it lost \$11 million after exceptional costs of \$15 million. GPA, which fell heavily into debt after an over-ambitious expansion and came close to collapse, raised \$4 billion last month through a bond issue which used its aeroplanes as security.

Local link for ATT

ATT, the world's largest telecommunications group, has reached agreement with five companies, including Time Warner, to provide service to business customers in 70 cities. ATT is authorised to enter local telephone markets under terms of recent landmark legislation signed by President Clinton in February. Local networks, which had previously been reserved for regional communications companies, known as Baby Bells, represent a market with annual sales of more than \$100 billion.

Warner-Lambert hope

WARNER-LAMBERT, the US pharmaceuticals company, expects earnings from ongoing operations to rise 5 per cent in the first quarter of the current year, after reporting earnings of \$1.50 a share in the first three months last time. Melvin Goodes, chief executive, expected sales growth in "double digits" and profit growth in the "mid-teens", on average, up to 2000. Mr Goodes said Warner-Lambert had signed a letter of intent for a marketing agreement with Pfizer to co-promote its cholesterol-lowering drug Atorvastatin.

US producer prices up

AMERICAN producer prices rose by 0.5 per cent in March compared with a 0.2 per cent decline in February, the Labour Department said. But stripping out the volatile food and energy components, prices rose by only 0.1 per cent, the same as in February. Wall Street had expected overall producer prices to rise by 0.4 per cent. The Labour Department also reported that the number of Americans filing for state jobless benefits fell 59,000 to 347,000 in the latest week, a lower figure than analysts had expected.

France cuts rate

THE Bank of France cut its key intervention rate yesterday to 3.70 per cent from 3.80 per cent, the fifth cut in the rate this year. The central bank left its five-to-ten-day emergency lending rate unchanged at 5.50 per cent. The lowering of the intervention rate was too small a move to boost French shares. The CAC-40 index closed down 11.00 at 2,082.94. Lower rates were expected yesterday, given the strength of the franc against the mark which some said argued for a more aggressive rate cut.

Destiny decision, page 25

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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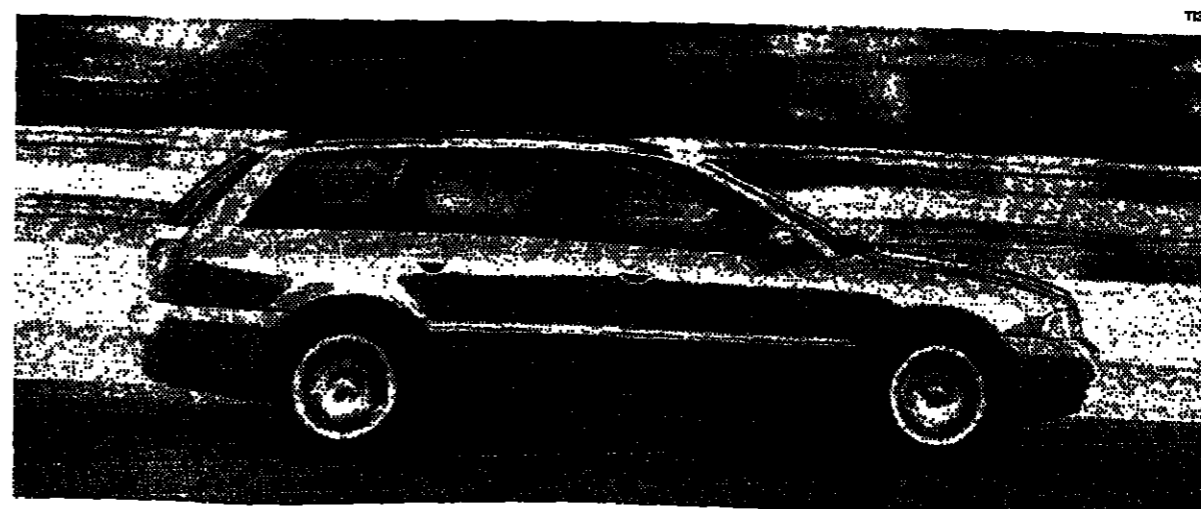


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□ Society speculators are the reluctant heroes □ Will Coleman cut the mustard? □ Cheap and dear directors

Bagging the windfalls

□ BANKING history is being rewritten. Never before, surely, have so many deposit-takers had to close their doors because to stop a run of money coming in. According to Adrian Coles, director general of the Building Societies Association "It is quite wrong for genuine customers to be inconvenienced by people seeking to make a quick buck". Sadly, the directors of most building societies seem unlikely to heed his words. They will go on trying to take their homely institutions into the corporate big-time, along with their pay. Savers, who have not done well in recent years, are now accused of being "carpet-baggers" if they spread their money around the remaining societies in the hope of earning windfalls of cash or shares to make up for the depredations of falling interest rates. But they are being sensible. It might be financial stupidity, but it would be a sensible tactic. Even if they guess wrong, they earn the normal return on their deposits. Indeed, these patient investors, now derided as cheap speculators, provide a vital oil to lubricate the ambitions of the boards of societies and their would-be new owners. Without them, boards might not earn the large majority votes they need under building society rules to convert or transfer. It is the

traditional saver and borrower who tends to object, only to be trampled in the dash for cash. The queues are inconvenient for small savers going about their business. And there should be some sympathy for small societies that have actually continued to try to fulfil the role of a non-profit mutual organisation. But most big societies have long abandoned such an approach in their desire for growth, maximum profit margins and a profit performance superior to their peers. Mutuality is a state of mind. If managers do not operate in that spirit, then mutuality has no value. If profits are being maximised, then members might as well lay their hands on the capital and the dividends that profit-maximising operators should pay. They are only getting cash, however, because managers found that, otherwise, they could no longer meet their ambition for mergers and growth. Building societies originally grew and prospered, however, because they could offer something better to savers than did the banks, and offered bor-

rowers a more understanding service that kept bad debts and interest rates down. Belatedly, a few of the bigger societies are returning to those roots. But it is not clear yet whether that is a change of heart or a short-term tactic to boost market share at the expense of margins while the housing market is thin. Thanks to the cash windfall, most societies will turn the way their boards want. Once the false mutuals have gone, however, the remainder will probably repeat history, offering a better deal to savers and borrowers. From a low base, they should once again outgrow their big, shiny rivals.

Sir Ralph haunts House of Fraser

□ THE strange tale of House of Fraser, the store empire that Mohamed Al Fayed sold, minus Harrods, its jewel, took another twist yesterday. Brian McGowan, chairman of the Dickens & Jones, Army & Navy and DH Evans enterprise, ushered in a new chief executive. Enter John Coleman, the former managing



director of Texas Homecare. A bit of chainsaw experience always comes in handy, although, to a casual observer, not necessarily at Dickens & Jones. A closer perusal of Mr Coleman's pedigree reveals that, prior to his two-year stint at Texas Homecare, he spent a decade at Burton Group, initially as deputy finance director and later as managing director of such outlets as Top Shop, Top Man and Dorothy Perkins.

Mr McGowan said all the things that chairman say at such times. He pointed out that Mr Coleman has an "extremely strong" track record and emphasised that he will provide the "precise blend of retail and management skills" required.

Mr Coleman spoke in a similar vein. He was "extremely pleased" to have been offered "one of the most exciting and prestigious roles" in UK retailing.

Alas, the City was not impressed. Tales had been rife that PDP, House of Fraser's largest shareholder with a 26 per cent stake, wanted a "big hitter" to join House of Fraser's board. David Dworkin, the American retail specialist who picked up £3 million from a short but successful sojourn at Storehouse, was reputed to be PDP's first choice. If not as successor to Coleman's predecessor Andrew Jennings — fired by McGowan early last month — then as successor to McGowan himself. As House of Fraser's shares fell 14p to 175p, McGowan, defending Coleman's appointment, declared: "John had years at Burton where he was at Ralph Halpern's elbow. What better retail training could there be than that?" Sir Ralph undoubtedly possessed many skills but the City is hardly crying out for an enore of the Burton saga of the Eighties. Meanwhile,

House of Fraser's shares, 5p off their 1994 flotation price, would appear to be as overvalued now as they were then.

Can pay, will pay

□ HOW much do shareholders need to pay directors? Big investors will surely ask this more often as, one by one, the better companies convert to Greenbury rules and proudly display their directors' emoluments. Recent reports offer illuminating contrasts. At Cookson, the improving materials group, board pay totalled £5.9 million last year, not counting share options. That was 11 per cent of shareholders' dividends, which looks pricey. Admittedly, the total was swelled by a side-effect of the Cadbury and Greenbury codes that their authors did not anticipate. Ray Sharpe, Cookson's number two in America, was paid £305,000 one-off compensation because his three-year notice period had to be cut when he joined the group board. Even so, Cookson directors are leaders in

the portly moggy stakes. Richard Oster, chief executive, got £1.7 million and most executive directors are Americans, paid on "levels prevailing in the USA".

At British Aerospace, whose operations are roughly double the size of Cookson's, and whose market value is about two thirds bigger, the board rates about £2.6 million in all. Both these boards of directors have delivered strong recoveries from financial and management crises in the early 1990s, along with share price growth above the average. In BAE's case, however, much of the hard graft was done by the late John Cahill. Cookson now has the better reputation.

At T&N, the motor components and former asbestos group, sales and profits are similar to Cookson's, but the directors are paid only £1.8 million. T&N is worth less than half as much as Cookson and its shares have performed badly. This was, however, not due to hiring cheap directors. It reflects the incidence of claims for harm from asbestos, pre-dating today's board. Ignoring asbestos charges, T&N profits have grown as strongly as Cookson's. You could say the group is harder to manage with the asbestos albatross round its neck and unpredictable cash flow. But justice and hard work never did have much to do with pay.

BP promises bigger dividends

BP EXPECTS to increase its post-tax profit by \$1.5 billion over the next five years (Carl Mortished writes). The oil company told its shareholders that earnings would grow at the rate of 8 per cent a year over the period and promised them increased dividends. John Browne, chief executive, told the annual meeting that BP aimed to pay out half of its underlying earnings in dividends every year. Mr Browne emphasised that the targets were not based on changes in prices or margins. "We work on the basis of projects we now have. And we are also cautious about our ability to improve capital efficiency." The company reckons that it can replace production from its existing projects over the next ten years with the rate of production increasing 4 to 5 per cent a year. *Tempus, page 23*

New Amec chief looks for overseas partners

By PAUL DURMAN

THE new chief executive of Amec, the engineering and construction group that recently escaped a £360 million takeover bid from Kvaerner, wants to strengthen its international business through strategic partnerships. Peter Mason, who joined Amec ten weeks ago, believes that the group has not made enough of its design and project management skills in international markets. He blamed this partly on weak marketing and partly on the group's operating structure, which he is subjecting to a strategic review. Mr Mason highlighted the Amec-led joint venture to build Hong Kong's new airport terminal building as an example of projects the

group should be seeking. Amec's involvement in the £800 million contract has included Watson Steel's design of the terminal's steel roof, and the supply of all site plant and equipment. Mr Mason envisages Amec providing the more profitable skills and technology, while its local partners supply labour and political nous. Amec was reporting annual pre-tax profits of £15.9 million, broadly in line with the forecasts made during its defence of the bid from Kvaerner, the Norwegian ship-building to engineering group. Without bid defence costs of £4.1 million, Amec would have matched the £20 million it made in 1994. Sir Alan Cockshaw, the

chairman of Amec, yesterday gave up his executive responsibilities. He said that underlying operating profits were up 39 per cent at £40.9 per cent. However, settling the dispute over the Tiffany North Sea oil platform cost the company £8.1 million. Mr Mason said Amec had decided to retain Fairclough Homes, the housebuilder, because a sale would not produce a sufficiently good price at a time when the housing market was improving. Fairclough made a £2.6 million profit after a £2.8 million loss in 1994. The construction division lifted profits from £5.7 million to £11.9 million, while the mechanical and electrical divi-

sion improved its contribution from £12.9 million to £19.5 million. Kvaerner retains a 26 per cent stake in Amec, bought for £50 million. Erik Tonseth, Kvaerner's chief executive, said the Norwegian group would be happy to place its holding; after its acquisition of rival construction group Trafalgar House, just completed. "The Amec shares have no strategic interest for us". Amec said the outlook for 1996 remains encouraging, and it expects much better profits this year. Analysts at Merrill Lynch are forecasting £34 million. Amec is paying a 1.5p final dividend to make a total of 3p. *Tempus, page 23*



John Coleman, House of Fraser's new head

House of Fraser shares fall as chief is chosen

HOUSE OF FRASER, the struggling department store group, has managed to fill the void left vacant by last month's sudden departure of its managing director. The Dickens & Jones and Army & Navy group has appointed John Coleman, a former Texas Homecare managing director, as chief executive (Sarah Bagnall writes). The news received a lacklustre reception in the City, and the shares slumped 14p to 175p, below the 180p flotation price in March 1994. In recent months, the shares have risen sharply on bid speculation. The announcement comes a week before HoF is expected to unveil a sharp drop in pre-tax profits from £28 million to £15 million in the year to January 30. The group forecast a decline in profits in January, in its fourth profit warning since flotation two years ago. In March, Andrew Jennings resigned as managing director amid shareholder dissatisfaction over the group's performance. Mr Coleman, 43, left Texas Homecare last year after Ladbroke sold the DIY chain to Sainsbury. He has also spent ten years with Burton Group. Pennington, this page

ELECTRICITY NOTICE

BRITISH GAS TRADING LTD
SCHEDULE 2
Regulations 3(2) and 4(2)
PART 1
Form Of Application For A Private Electricity Supply Licence or Extension.

- Full name of applicant: British Gas Trading Limited.
- Address of the applicant or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered or principal office:
Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London, SW1V 3JL.
- Where the applicant is a Company, the full names of the current Directors and the Company's registered number:
Roy Alan Gardner
Michael Richard Alexander
Graham John Bartlett
Company number: 3078771
- Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares (see Note 1) of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the name(s) and address(es) of the holder(s) of such shares shall be provided:
British Gas Trading Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of British Gas plc of the same registered office address.
- Desired date from which licence is to take effect:
1st May 1996.
- A sufficient description adequately specifying (see Note 2) the nature and situation of the premises intended to be supplied, separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided by paragraph 7 below:
Any non-domestic premises with a maximum demand above 100kW in the authorised areas of the following Public Electricity Supply Companies: Eastern Group plc, East Midlands Electricity plc, London Electricity plc, Manweb plc, Midlands Electricity plc, Northern Electric plc, NORWEB plc, SEEBORDE plc, Southern Electricity plc, South Wales Electricity plc, South West Electricity plc, Yorkshire Electricity Group plc, Scottish Power plc, and Scottish Hydro-Electric plc.
- (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand (see Note 3) for each power band.
(b) If the date in paragraph 5 above is on or after 1st April 1994 then only Power Band A shall be completed and if the said date is on or after 1st April 1996 then this paragraph shall cease to have effect:

Power Band	Aggregate Number of Premises	Energy Maximum demand (GWh)	To be supplied
(A) Not exceeding 0.1 MW	none	none	none
(B) Exceeding 0.1 MW but not exceeding 1.0 MW	N/A	N/A	N/A

8. A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant.

Supplies are intended to be provided by means of the transmission systems and distribution systems owned by: The National Grid Company plc, Eastern Group plc, East Midlands Electricity plc, London Electricity plc, Manweb plc, Midlands Electricity plc, Northern Electric plc, NORWEB plc, SEEBORDE plc, Southern Electricity plc, South Wales Electricity plc, South West Electricity plc, Yorkshire Electricity Group plc, Scottish Power plc, and Scottish Hydro-Electric plc. The applicant, at this moment in time, does not propose to own any electric lines — but wishes to reserve the right to do so.

- A statement of the extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence for which he is applying:
To be able to facilitate the supply of electricity to the customer types outlined in Paragraph 6 the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence.
- Details of any licences held, applied for or being applied for by the applicant in respect of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity:
None.

- Note 1**
Reference to shares:
- (a) in relation to an applicant with a share capital are allotted shares;
 - (b) in relation to an applicant with capital but no share capital, are to rights to share in the capital of the applicant;
 - (c) in relation to an applicant without capital, are to interest:
 - (i) conferring any right to share in the profits or liability to contribute to the losses of the applicant; or
 - (ii) giving rise to an obligation to contribute to the debts or expenses of the applicant in the event of a winding up.

Note 2
The description should enable the areas, location or premises concerned to be adequately and readily identified, by map if the applicant so desires or by any other convenient means. The following examples of descriptions that might be used are not exhaustive and are by way of illustration only: the area or premises might be identified by the name of the customers and/or postal address of the premises to be supplied; described by reference to a named street or road, town, city, village, parish, county or other accepted boundary, such as a Local Authority Area; or described by reference to certain other characteristics such as the type of premises or the maximum electrical demand to be met at those premises.

- Note 3**
- (a) For premises already receiving electricity for a period in excess of 12 Months, whether from the applicant or anyone else, maximum demand shall be calculated as the average of the three highest monthly maximum demands in the preceding 12 Months; or
 - (b) For premises not already receiving electricity, maximum demand shall be calculated as the average of the three highest monthly maximum demands which might reasonably be expected by the applicant to be supplied in the first 12 months of supply.
- In compliance with the Electricity (Applications for Licences and Extensions of Licences) Regulations 1990, maps relevant to the above application are lodged with the regional offices of the Office of Electricity Regulation and are available for inspection by the public between 10:00 and 16:00 on any working day.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Montigny, 12 April 1996

Rather than let rumours develop regarding the offers made to the Société Civile des Salariés (SCS) regarding the purchase of its shareholding in Financière Eurest, Sodexho clarifies its position as follows:

1
The management buy-out of EUREST France that was put in place in 1991 has been supported by SODEXHO SA, holding 33.34% of the share capital of Financière Eurest; Wagons-Lits, holding 33.3% of the shares; the management and associates owning 33.2% of the shares (but 57.88% of the voting rights); and by the venture capital fund, Epargne Développement, with 0.16% of the equity.

2
SODEXHO contested the sale in 1995 by Wagons-Lits to Compass of its 33.3% of the capital in Financière Eurest, notably in the context of the agreements made at the time of the management buy-out in 1991. SODEXHO has recently taken legal action against Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits in this respect. As a result, SODEXHO considers that the Board of Financière Eurest must reject in accordance with statutory authorisation procedures the offer made by Compass to purchase SCS's shareholding in Financière Eurest.

3
More than 5 years ago, SODEXHO decided not to make any alliance without the full support of its partner's existing management. Hence, over the last 9 months, SODEXHO management has held discussions with SCS management and together they have developed a solution which guarantees management independence and autonomy for the EUREST France business, thereby ensuring the perfect continuity of the current situation.

4
SODEXHO has offered a consideration of up to FF 694 million for the SCS's shareholding, dependant upon the future performance of EUREST France, but subject to a minimum payment of FF 592 million. This consideration is interest bearing at the average monthly money market rate (T4M) with effect from 1 April 1996.

5
SODEXHO has also provided to the SCS a bank guarantee of FF 694 million (value date 1 April 1996) as surety of its intent to purchase in due course the SCS's interest in Financière Eurest. The SCS has made it known that certain of its own shareholders (both Eurest France managers and others) wish to sell their stakes immediately; to this end SODEXHO is ready to make an advance to the SCS on the consideration payable in due course for the acquisition of the latter's shareholding in Financière Eurest.

For further information, please contact:
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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Arresting sight for Sir Robin

NAKED shareholders paraded themselves in front of Sir Robin Ibbotson and at the first Lloyds TSB annual meeting yesterday, protesting at the bank's stance on Third World debt.

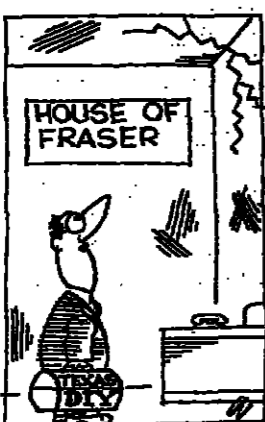
At least two arrests were made after the "ethical streak" and several protesters were ejected from the meeting held at Edinburgh's new international conference centre.

The 30 protesters belonged to the Lloyds and Midland Boycott (LAMB), the same gang that tied itself to the railings at Lloyd's annual meeting last year. "We've tried polite questions at previous meetings but it doesn't work," panted one protester. Spurred Sir Robin says LAMB is ignoring his invitations to talk.

PETER MASON'S first two months as chief executive of the construction group Amec have done wonders for his frequent-flyer miles. He has spent 80 hours in the air, flown 30,000 miles, and seen Singapore in 24 hours while visiting group operations around the world.

Where's Peter?

THE picturesque home of Peter Middleton on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors is the cause of much concern among locals. The former Lloyd's chief executive, who quit in a hurry six months ago to become a £1 million-a-year executive at Salomon Brothers, has not been seen at his cottage for months. The 56-year-old former monk was last spotted with Lucy Roberts, his girlfriend, fixing up Old School House, which nestles next to the ancient church of St Chad's. Locals are keeping vigil on his Honda 250cc motorbike, which was left outside in the winter.



Real-time love

CITY whizz-kids across the UK are making room in their diaries for a date with Julia Carling. Extolling the virtues of Cityscreen, the real-time magazine, at a presentation to marketers last night, the loveless blonde made a desperate plea to brokers and traders. "Who reads Cityscreen?" posed Will Carling's former love. "Young, wealthy, single males. Sounds interesting... maybe a potential date for my diary."

Heap of trouble

ANOTHER apparent blow to the US tobacco industry has come after an ex-lover seems to have handed over wads of documents concerning Philip Morris. Hasty Heep, an interior decorator, kept the documents in her basement on behalf of her former fiancé, a Philip Morris researcher. When the relationship turned sour, Ms Heep sought revenge, to the delight of lawyers hostile to Philip Morris.

SLOUGH ESTATES, the property group, is handing out ghastly invitations to the demolition of a disused bus maintenance garage in Elstree today. The million square foot building adjacent to the M1, which was originally intended to be the final extension of the Northern Line, is to be turned into a business park.

'Ins' and 'outs' will decide destiny of monetary union

George Brock charts shifts in the nature of the debate over the euro



Key figures: Theo Waigel, German finance minister, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer flies into the stone-walled city of Verona today for what is billed as, at best, a bruising encounter and at worst an ambush. Yet it is a fair bet that Kenneth Clarke will be his usual insouciant self when he touches down.

His unconcern will not only reflect his renowned and jovial indifference to any claim that crisis is coming from whatever quarter, Mr Clarke is not only congenitally immune to crisis fever, but knows that he holds enough cards to prevent Britain being forced to join a revamped exchange-rate mechanism any time soon. And he arrives in Verona with the Cabinet rumpus over a referendum on monetary union behind him.

Most importantly, Europe's debate about the single currency has shifted since the beginning of this year and will go on doing so for another two years. Businessmen may urge politicians to clarify unresolved questions about how a monetary union might work, but neither the EU nor Chancellor Helmut Kohl works that way. Herr Kohl, who remains the master of the single currency game, is happy to wait for the debaters to exhaust themselves. He discreetly discourages frontal opposition to monetary union inside the German political establishment but says little in public, influencing events from the sidelines.

Last autumn, public and private speculation that the start of the single currency would have to be delayed beyond January 1999 gained ground. Delay seemed the only solution if France's high public deficit blocked its entry to the single currency.

But in the new year the climate changed. Germany's finance minister, Theo Waigel, revealed that his own country's public debt fell well outside of the 3 per cent (of GDP) required by the Maastricht treaty. Although Herr Waigel promised that Germany's 3.6 per cent would be brought into line by the end of 1997, markets began to suppose that both Germany and France might have to bend the rules to join each other in the euro-zone. The Maastricht treaty has always allowed governments to fudge the debt rules, but only recently have German politicians begun to draw attention to the fact. "All texts are open to interpretation, and Maastricht is no exception," Karl Lamers, the influential Christian Democrat, said two months ago.

With jobs leaking out of the German economy at an alarming rate, German industrialists piled on pressure for a lower mark. After a pivotal meeting in Munich in January with the increasingly ambitious and powerful Herr Waigel, Herr Kohl began, gently, to try to talk the mark down (see chart). So far, and assisted by a strengthening dollar, the tactic has worked.

Moreover, market pundits are starting to sound more

optimistic about monetary union in spite of weak growth in the key economies. President Jacques Chirac of France has not wobbled. Herr Kohl stays firm. "EMU will be first and foremost an act of political will," Michele Debonneuil, chief economist at Banque Indosuez, said this week. That bank's own research suggests that France's debt-to-GDP percentage will be 3.7 in 1997 and Germany's 3.2. The market currently believes that in the spring of 1998, EU leaders will not let such numbers stand in their way. Last month's regional elections in Germany confirmed that Herr Kohl will still be around to lead the leaders.

So far as persuading the markets goes, Herr Kohl's project of economic and monetary unification stands in much better shape than six months ago. The problem with this rosy scenario lies in persuading the voters.

Confident as they may claim to be about the single currency's take-off, Herr Kohl and his ministers postponed an expensive propaganda campaign for the euro in January because important local elections were in the offing. Between 50 and 60 per cent of Germans remain opposed to

the euro and polls find opponents also outnumbering enthusiasts in Britain, Austria, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. The euro quite simply lacks legitimacy.

To succeed, Herr Kohl and President Chirac have to jump at least four obstacles:

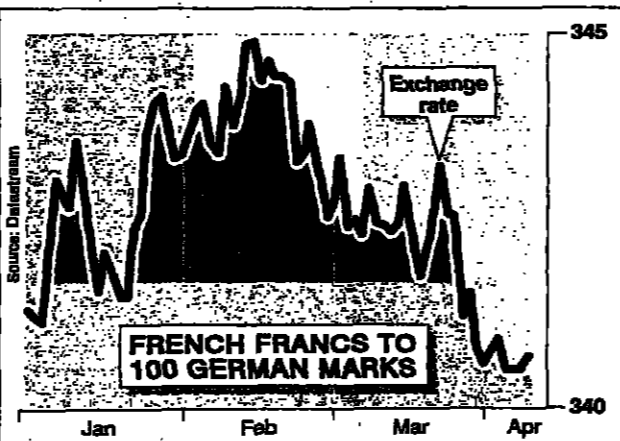
First, finding a big enough "core" of states both wanting the euro and with deficits low enough to pass muster. Deficit ratios below 4 per cent seem to be acceptable to governments — although fudging on that scale may well scare German voters who go to the polls in a general election in 1998. But "manageable" overshoots are by no means guaranteed. British Treasury forecasts suggest that the French deficit ratio may be above 4 per cent at the end of 1997. The annual report of the European Monetary Institute, due in November, will be the key indicator of whether enough countries can come close enough.

Secondly, quelling French doubts about EMU and jobs. French public opinion remains roughly 2:1 in favour of the single currency. President Chirac, who is not even committed to such a thing, would have little to fear from an EMU

referendum if he held one now. The President's problem is his own credibility gap: he keeps making precise pledges about the jobs France will create and nobody believes he can deliver. Not all his welfare cuts have yet bitten and fresh opposition is still appearing. France's doctors have called a strike for later this month. Over the summer, the Government will have to draft a budget for 1997, which will have to be even more austere — the last one brought the country to a halt just before Christmas.

Thirdly, quelling German doubts. Herr Kohl will probably try to brush aside economic fears and tell his voters that they should swap the mark for the euro to prove that Germans remain good Europeans. But the Chancellor has also adopted a new strategy of softening the EMU criteria and the mark. As an influential member of the Bundesbank council pointed out privately last month, that implies a monetary union which does not make price stability its priority. The Maastricht treaty says that price stability must be the European Central Bank's (ECB) key target.

Fourthly, avoiding an EU split. In spite of dire predictions here that Mr Clarke will be faced with demands that he join a new ERM "or else", neither Germany nor France is yet determined to create a single currency at the price of permanently dividing the EU. No one has yet succeeded in designing a convincing, compulsory and inclusive system for preventing currencies outside the single currency from diverging too far from the euro. British ministers may have a high profile in the arguments, but fears that "our" countries will devalue against the euro are essentially — for France and Germany — the fear of Spanish or Italian devaluation. The sanctions



Feeling smug over Lloyd's

From R.V. Munden
Sir, For the past few years your letters section has been swelled by comments about Lloyd's of London. Correspondence on this subject has accused, defended, expressed outrage, shown quiet resignation (rare), spluttered, analysed and pleaded.

I cannot recall, though, any letters which have been smug and I thought I should fill this void.

In 1993 I was invited to become a name and, because I knew little about the market, I asked to meet a selection of active participants in order to gain some understanding of the people to whom I was proposed I should entrust my future financial security.

This request was greeted with surprise but appropriate arrangements were made. It took only a few discussions for me to develop strong reservations about becoming involved.

The accounting system and financial controls of the brokers I met seemed such that I never did understand how auditors were persuaded to sign off their accounts. Under-

Apprenticeships for craftsmen of the next decade

From Mr James Paice, MP
Sir, The plea from Mr T. P. Hartley (Business Letters, March 28) for "a return to the rigours of a formal system of apprenticeship training" is well timed. The Government launched Modern Apprenticeships nationwide in September of last year, and only recently received enthusiastic endorsement from Sir Ron Dearing in his report on the education and training of 16-19 year-olds.

Modern Apprenticeships are based on frameworks designed by employers. They take the best aspects from the old-style apprenticeships and combine them with modern qualifications and learning

methods. They are not about time serving. They offer an equal alternative, via the work-based route, to a qualification that can lead on to higher education — if the apprentice wishes. Modern Apprenticeships will provide highly trained craftsmen and women, technicians and junior managers who are better prepared and motivated to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Modern Apprenticeships cover 55 industrial and commercial sectors, including those that traditional apprenticeships never covered, such as information technology and business administration. All the signs are that young

people and employers are very enthusiastic about the initiative, which offers a long-term commitment to high-level training.

Modern Apprenticeships are a serious reform of training in this country. They will have far-reaching implications for the way we meet the skill needs in the next decade. The Government has much sympathy with Mr Hartley's views — the solutions he calls for are already in place. Yours faithfully, JAMES PAICE, MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Employment, Great Smith Street, SW1.

writers, those Masters of the Universe at whose feet brokers seemed to worship, appeared to assess risks almost entirely by reference to the past although a few held up dampened forefingers to try to detect any winds of change which might be blowing.

When my reservations became apparent it was suggested that, if I agreed to increase my proposed participation, I might be offered a position on

a "baby syndicate". It was explained that such syndicates were run for the benefit of insiders and special friends; they were virtually risk-free and highly profitable. I would be extremely privileged, as a non-working name, to be given such an opportunity.

This, for me, was the clincher and I politely declined to become a name.

I did not think I was being particularly clever at the time,

merely observing basic business practices and standards. I accepted that my decision was based on only a little learning and I am aware it is reprehensible for me to feel smug about it. I just can't help it, though.

Yours faithfully, R.V. MUNDEN, Lower Woodbrook, Louth, Leicestershire, Taunton, Somerset.

Inscrutable origin of riches from China

Tom Walker in Hong Kong on banks' fears of becoming tainted

HONG KONG'S close-knit fraternity of private bankers have given themselves a clean bill of health, in spite of questions raised by the head of Coutts, the Queen's bank, about the legitimacy of some of the "new money" coming from China into the territory.

David Went, chief executive of Coutts Group, raised hackles when he admitted that his bank was being circumspect in its treatment of the vast fortunes being made in the People's Republic of China.

"In a country where private wealth has not been legal, you have to ask yourself where it is coming from," he said. "We have a reputational risk in taking on clients from the PRC and we would be cautious in accepting clients."

Hong Kong, one of the world's great banking centres for Asian entrepreneurs and families wishing to park substantial assets offshore, has maintained its high standing over the past decade in the face of an increasingly murky international picture of offshore banking.

The whereabouts of Latin America's drug fortunes has always worried the international monetary watchdogs, and the collapse of the former Soviet Union into gangsterism has added to their troubles. Asian wealth, meanwhile, has been allowed to pile up largely unchecked.

Hong Kong has serviced the bulk of China's money for over a century, and almost exclusively since the communists took power.

Much of the money made in Hong Kong is based on uninterrupted appreciation in its property market. However, with integration into China looming, the basis of wealth on display today is becoming less tangible. Smuggling, of anything from tigers' paws to dinosaur eggs, is rampant. Without doubt, someone is banking "dirty" money in the territory.

"We are at the upper end of the spectrum in terms of due diligence," said Mr Went, refusing even to hint at likely culprits. "I wouldn't like to say who they are — we've been in business 304 years, and you have to remember that you can blow it overnight, no matter how attractive the opportunities appear."

A Coutts client must have

minimum net worth of \$1 million, although, to be particularly attractive to the bank, liquid assets of \$5 million are nearer the mark. Assets managed by Coutts's two Asian offices, in Hong Kong and Singapore, are \$500 million, with total assets managed for Asian clients exceeding \$2 billion.

Coutts is seen as a small player in the territory, and few of rivals divulge similar comparative details. All, however, protest innocence.

"It is a little bit tricky here in Asia because people don't like to show who they are, but that information is treated very confidentially and it has resulted in us never really ever having had any problem with dirty money," said Knut Reinertz, of Banque Generale du Luxembourg.

Max Gunther, regional manager with the Credit Suisse private banking unit for East Asia, says: "It doesn't matter where the money is booked, we will apply rigid screening of clients here, and whether we refer to Zurich or London or Luxembourg, we do the due diligence here. All the money we give out, whether over the location, is clean — we don't have first-rate offshore centres, second-rate and so on — it's just clean money. If you want to be in private banking in the long run, there's only one approach — the professional approach."

Observers of the sector admit that Mr Went's remarks touched a nerve. "The threat of money laundering is very powerful in Hong Kong," said a James Capel analyst. "We are very worried about being tainted."

The problem for Hong Kong, another analyst said, is the need to find clients in an increasingly competitive market. "The place is grossly overbanked," he said. "Some of the smaller Swiss banks are hungry for business — so money is booked into Geneva, and Hong Kong is bypassed altogether. It's all lost in a series of code numbers."

Tracing any client would be nearly impossible, he said, and even banking experts steeped in the ways of the territory's unspoken financial freemasonry would be unaware of the conduits for Chinese money. "These people," he says, "are very smart."

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Ashanti continues expansion with Australian miner

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS, the Ghanaian mining company in which Lonrho holds a large stake, has continued its buying spree with the acquisition of Australian-listed Golden Shamrock Mines for £290 million.

It is Ashanti's third acquisition since December and the largest so far. It underlines the determination of the company, which is in the sights of Anglo American Corporation, to remain independent.

GSM's most important asset is its 70 per cent holding in the the Siguri

goldmine in Guinea, where a feasibility study, published last month, identified 2.37 million ounces of gold. The company, which is also listed in Toronto, also has a 70 per cent share in the Iduapriem goldmine in Ghana.

Ashanti last week made a £65 million agreed offer for International Gold Resources of Toronto. In December it bought Cluff Resources, the London-listed gold company with operations in Africa, for £80 million.

The latest deal is being arranged as a share-swap

merger. GSM shareholders will receive one Ashanti ordinary share for every 22.5 GSM shares, which are valued at Aus\$1.37 (70p). GSM's board supports the merger which Australian courts will have to clear and which its shareholders will then vote on.

Ashanti intends to integrate GSM's West African assets into its own operations. GSM's Australian assets — a coppermine and gold and silver exploration interests — will be sold off.

Analysts welcomed the deal and said that the price was in line with Ashanti's other acquisitions.

Ashanti's advisers said that the GSM had been high on its "shopping list" and that the results of the Siguri feasibility study had prompted the offer. Analysts said that Ashanti's rapid expansion could make it appear less digestible and discourage the attentions of South Africa's Anglo American Corporation.

The South African company recently acquired 6 per cent of Lonrho, which owns 37 per cent of Ashanti, from Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive. Mr Bock is to demerge the group's mining interests. Anglo American has first right of refusal on Mr Bock's remaining 18 per cent of Lonrho.

Tempus, page 24

MAM bids £93m for healthcare group

BY ERIC REGULY

THE private equity arm of Mercury Asset Management (MAM) yesterday offered to buy Priory Hospitals Group, Britain's largest private-sector provider of psychiatric services, for £93 million in cash. It is Mercury's first foray into the healthcare field.

Community Psychiatric Centers of America, Priory's owner, said other potential buyers would not be excluded

as negotiations with Mercury got underway. Founded in 1980, Priory has 15 hospitals and adolescent residential units, with about 700 beds. The company is profitable, though no financial details were available.

Mercury wants to buy Priory because it is the market leader and has strong growth prospects. It plans to float the company within five years.



Tony Wardell watches as a model applies products that Swallowfield hopes to market under its own brand name

Swallowfield buoyed by exports

BY MARTIN BARROW

SWALLOWFIELD, the contract manufacturer of branded and private label aerosols and cosmetics, said exports helped to drive profits to a new high in 1995, offsetting the impact of a difficult UK consumer market.

However, the company's Belgian subsidiary continued to trade at a loss despite a number of measures taken to restore profitability.

Pre-tax profits rose to £2.69 million

from £2.56 million on sales that advanced to £37 million from £34.87 million. The company said new contracts were secured in Japan and Australia and non-UK sales now account for 27 per cent of total sales.

Swallowfield, which was formed through a buyout from Cadbury-Schweppes 10 years ago, embraces the companies of Aerosols International, Cosmetics Plus and Parbel, a Belgian

manufacturer. The group's management structure is being centralised to market the Swallowfield brand in preference to the separate companies. The company, whose managing director is Tony Wardell, believes Parbel can be restored to profit by the end of the current year.

Earnings rose to 13.8p a share from 13.3p. There is a final dividend of 3.8p a share, due May 31, lifting the total to 6.5p from 6.2p. The shares rose 3p to 164p.

Lloyds TSB meeting disrupted

Two so-called "ethical streakers" disrupted the first annual meeting of Lloyds TSB yesterday as part of a protest about the bank's stance on Third World debt. Several people were ejected from the meeting in Edinburgh's new conference centre. There were several arrests among the 30 protesters, who were led by Lloyds and Midland Boycott (LAMB). A Lloyds TSB spokesman said Sir Robin Ibbotson, the company chairman, had offered to meet LAMB in February.

French strike

France Telecom workers began a 24-hour strike yesterday to protest over plans for partial privatisation of the state-owned telephone monopoly. The unions decided on the walkout after the Government's announcement in March that it would begin changing France Telecom into a corporation from a state agency.

Rathbone up

Rathbone Brothers, the private banking group, increased 1995 pre-tax profits to £7.4 million from £6.2 million in 1994. Earnings were 21.3p a share, compared to 21p in the previous year. A final dividend of 6.5p a share, due May 24, lifts the total to 10p (9p).

Polypipe sale

Polypipe, the manufacturer of plastic pipe and fittings, has sold its Allerton Glass business to Magnet, a subsidiary of Berisford, for £7 million. The proceeds will be used to reduce debts. The book value of the net assets sold was £5.1 million at June 30, 1995. Polypipe has also signed a trading agreement with Magnet.

Barcom buy

Barcom has acquired Meadham Plant Company, a supplier of general contractors plant based in Winchester, for a maximum consideration of £2.5 million in cash and shares. In the year ended April 30, 1995, Meadham earned pre-tax profits of £1.04 million.

Slowdown

Singapore's economy is expected to slow down because of rising labour and business costs and a strengthening currency, the Asian Development Bank said. "The outlook for Singapore in the next two years is for a deceleration of growth toward its sustainable long run potential of 7 per cent to 8 per cent," the bank added.

Nurdin & Peacock forecasts squeeze

BY SARAH BAGNALL

NURDIN & PEACOCK, the cash-and-carry operator which supplies more than a quarter of a million corner shops, yesterday predicted a shake-out in the wholesale industry.

Richard Fulford, chairman, said: "The industry will go through a period of consolidation in the next few years. We believe we will be well placed to benefit from this." He added that 1995 had been a very difficult year for the group and that conditions remained tough.

He said the company was trying to combat these pressures by investing in information technology and central distribution in a bid to reduce costs and improve margins.

Mr Fulford's remarks came as he revealed a rise in pre-tax profits and exceptional items

from £16.5 million to £19.6 million in the year to December 29. N&P announced it had acquired G Thompson, which trades under the banner of Thompson Wholesale Foods, for £400,000.

Including net one-off items of £1.8 million, profits rose to £21.4 million. The exceptional profit was the net effect of the £7.3 million profit on the sale of the Cargo Club warehouses offset by £5.3 million of provisions. The provision, which follows a strategic review by David Sims, who joined as chief executive in June, covers the cost of writing off supplier accounts.

Sales from continuing operations rose 8.5 per cent to £1.6 billion. The total dividend was lifted from 6.9p to 7.25p. The shares rose 1p to 175p.

Four-year high for oil prices

OIL prices rose to a four-and-a-half year high of \$22.66 a barrel yesterday as a rally picked up steam after a brief pause for breath. Analysts say crude could rise further as buyers in the West scramble to rebuild depleted refined oil product inventories.

While oil product prices, in particular petrol, might stay firm for longer, crude would probably start to reverse as summer approaches and extra supplies come onstream.

After rising 63 cents yesterday, the widely traded Brent crude has recorded an overall gain of more than \$6 since the end of January.

JP Morgan jumps 72% in first quarter

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

J P MORGAN, the US banking group, reported net income of \$439 million in the first quarter this year, a surge of 72 per cent over the same period in 1995.

Earnings per share for the quarter were \$2.13, against \$1.27 a year ago.

But first-quarter earnings last year included an after-tax charge of \$33 million, or 17 cents a share, related primarily to severance costs.

Douglas Warner, chairman, said: "Growing opportunities to put J P Morgan's worldwide capabilities to work for clients led to strong

first-quarter results." Market-making, investment banking, and investment management all produced substantial gains, he said.

Revenues totalled \$1.740 billion in the first three months, an advance of 25 per cent from last year's \$1.388 billion.

Net interest revenue declined 21 per cent, to \$396 million, reflecting lower returns from asset and liability management in the United States and a decrease in trading-related net interest revenue. Trading revenue rose to \$788 million from \$303 million.

Daimler-Benz chief talks of 'further tough decisions'

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN STUTTGART

BASED on a rise in first-quarter sales, Daimler-Benz, the industrial group, said yesterday it expects to show an operating profit this year.

In the first three months of 1996, Daimler's group sales rose 7 per cent to DM23.6 billion from an adjusted DM22 billion for that period last year. Manfred Gentz, chief financial officer, cautiously predicted a full-year sales increase of between 5 and 10 per cent.

But Jürgen Schrempf, the company's chairman, gave warning that "further tough decisions still have to be taken in 1996" to reverse 1995's substantial loss and restore earnings to a satisfactory level. One tough decision previously announced was that Daimler would not pay investors a dividend for the 1995 business year, when the



Schrempf gave warning

group recorded a net loss of DM5.7 billion. The full-year operating loss was DM1.1 billion.

Daimler-Benz revealed yesterday that its group sales last year rose just 0.8 per cent to DM103.5 billion.

The net loss came mostly from the restructuring of Daimler's widespread opera-

tions, including the divestment of Fokker, the loss-making Dutch aircraft-maker, and the AEG electronics division. Although financial support to Fokker was ended in January, Daimler-Benz is allowed under German law to charge the costs to 1995.

Separately, the Mercedes-Benz luxury car subsidiary said revenues rose 7 per cent in the first three months of this year, reaching DM18.1 billion. Mercedes also reported that higher sales and cost-cutting had improved its final results for 1995, bringing a net profit of DM2.28 billion, up 23 per cent from 1994.

Daimler-Benz Aerospace said its first-quarter sales were up 6 per cent over the same period last year, reaching DM2.16 billion. The aerospace division said it expected "substantial improvement in earnings" this year after dropping Fokker.

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The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.



How to participate

- All you have to do to take part in the Challenge is register your golf day, using the form (right) - then on the day itself, submit the results.
- Simply send off the completed form, together with the registration fee of £250 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 16th September 1996.
- The top four scoring golfers in your golf day's individual Stabstest competition - including up to three guests (your option) - will become eligible to represent your company (as a team) at one of the twelve regional finals in October this year.
- Your team of four will, if their aggregate Stabstest score is among the top 25 aggregate scores in your region, qualify for a regional final.
- The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the national final at Hyatt La Manga Club Resort in Spain in November. To be filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- Golf days registered after 16th September or played after 27th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

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- Your golf day featured in The Times 'entertaining golf days' feature list.
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- Complimentary copies of the event newsletter on your golf day.
- A golf day management software program for use on your golf day.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine 'The Business Golfer'.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as a team to play in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity, should they win the Regional Final, to play in the National Final, to be held in November 1996, at The Hyatt La Manga Club in Spain and filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for the golf day organiser.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is approved by the R&A for payment of expenses. *Rule 1-4 Etc. 7 R&A/96. A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of the registration form, or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers at:

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POP 1

Former hellraiser Paul Westerberg now has a taste for nothing more life-threatening than a good cigar



POP 2

Simple emotions, simply expressed: you can't beat the schmaltzy ballads of the ever poised Lionel Richie

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3

Cocteau Twins maintain their mystique on *Milk & Kisses*, an album that inhabits a world of its own



POP 4

The Beloved continue to peddle their shallow brand of blissed-out dance music on their latest, *X*

Too fast to live, too old to die

David Sinclair talks to rehabilitated rock 'n' roller Paul Westerberg about drugs, death, hellraising and the joys of a quiet evening in

Rock stars do not often break down and cry in interviews with journalists they have never met before. And Paul Westerberg, one of the most noted hellraisers of his generation, is the last person you would imagine to be an exception. Leader of the enormously influential and perpetually under-the-influence American group the Replacements from 1979 to 1990, Westerberg has lived the swaggering, staggering, rock 'n' roll life-style to the hilt. Now, on the eve of the release of his second solo album, *Eventually*, he is a sober, 36-year-old man with a taste for nothing more life-threatening than French cigars. He is, however, still counting the cost of his former band's excesses, specifically the drug-related death in February 1995 of guitarist Bob Stinson.

"I knew this would happen sooner or later," he says, jaw quivering as he removes his shades for the first time during our interview, and wipes the tears from his eyes with the sleeve of his black suit. "I've been able to keep the lid on it until now, but..."

"I go back and look at some of the press before he died and I remember a quote which said, 'What's supposed to happen is that one of us dies because that's what they want' and that's what they did want. We all knew that Bob was on the highway to hell. Even before we split up, he was out of the band through drug abuse that was even beyond what the rest of us were doing. He was not a stable man. He needed help and he never really got what he needed."

Westerberg has written a song for his lost friend, a desperately poignant ballad called *Good Day* with a chorus that goes, "A good day is any day that you're alive."

"I never thought I would make a statement like that, but we change. I don't look forward to playing it

live," he says, recovering his composure at last, and even raising a wan smile.

Good Day is one of 12 new compositions on *Eventually* that confirm Westerberg's enduring status as one of the great, unrecognised heroes of rock 'n' roll. His writing style combines poetic intimacy and humour with an authoritative, rhythmic cool in a way that recalls the work of greats such as Ray Davies and Keith Richards. The new album is a mellower and more rounded collection than his sensational debut, *14 Songs*, released in 1993, although tracks such as *Ain't Got Me* and *Had It With You* recall the raucous spirit of old.

"I was very relaxed about the writing and the pace at which I recorded this album, and I think that's reflected in the songs. And I chose a batch of songs that all felt the same way. I wanted to make this album easier and more accessible than *14 Songs*."

If Westerberg is now actively looking for a taste of commercial success, you can hardly blame him. After all, he has been knocking on the door for 16 years. Born in the last few hours of 1959, and brought up in Minneapolis, he came from a large family that numbered both musicians and alcoholics among its ranks, which may explain the young Westerberg's passion for both music and booze. He was never pushed to be a high achiever, which he now believes made him try all the harder to make something special of his life.

The Replacements sprang out of the same Minneapolis hardcore punk scene that spawned Hüsker Dü, another of the great, unsung influences on latterday American rock, and later, Soul Asylum. Taking their cue from the New York Dolls, the Mats (as the Replacements were known) became renowned for their raucous,



Grown up all right: Paul Westerberg, hunched against the cold and the vicissitudes of life, keeps his shades on — "All I wanted to do was play rock 'n' roll, but I've grown a little tired of it"

ragged brand of garage-band rock and notorious for their royally drunken displays of craziness on and off stage. But thanks to Westerberg's exceptional ear for a tune — which eventually produced gems such as *Left of the Dial*, *I'll Be You*, *Skyway* and *Alex Chilton* — they always seemed to promise so much more.

"Around the time of the fourth album, *Let It Be*, things were really rolling. Everyone was saying we were headed for the top. For a while we were the coolest band in America. We thought, 'We're going to be rich in a couple of years', and then two years later the crowds are thinning out and you suddenly realise that that was your heyday." In fact the Replacements' most successful album was *Don't Tell a*

Soul, released in 1989, which sold about 350,000 copies. But by then the combination of hard slog and even harder partying over so many years had taken its toll.

"We could have been millionaires and we would still have been sick of each other. We played our last gig on July 4, and it just dawned on everyone. Yeah, I guess we're done, aren't we?"

It is a cautionary tale and one that Westerberg admits he is lucky to be around to tell. He lives quietly now and spends most of his evenings reading.

"Everyone knows it takes a lot to get me out. What do you do when you go to a club? If you're not going to pick up a girl or get drunk, it cuts down the fun, really."

So is rock 'n' roll — as Ian

Hunter so memorably expressed it in his valedictory song *Ballad of Mori* — a losers' game?

"It depends what you want out of it. If you want people to admire you and you want to get laid and make money, you can do all that. But if you want to touch people, it's harder to do."

"Performing rock 'n' roll is just vaudeville: they pay money and you play the fool. All my early life all I wanted to do was play rock 'n' roll, but I've grown a little tired of it. Why can't you play rock 'n' roll on Friday night and go out to dinner with your family on Saturday night? I can play the music but I don't have to live the lifestyle any more."

● *Eventually* is released by Warner Bros on April 29

The white heat of technophobia

Strangelove are a band with a future.

Which is great for their lead singer

Patrick Duff, a man with quite a past

Patrick Duff, on stage, exudes the kind of electricity that the black-browed Paganini was supposed to have generated, but with a noncy violin rather than huge, grating Stratoasters and the death-rumble of overloading bass. When Duff snaps "How could I possibly explain my hatred of you?", he shines with a malice that dims the spotlight on him. When he convulses against his guitar, the first 20 rows swoon. When his sister made momentary eye-contact with him backstage last year, she almost fainted, and spent the rest of the evening with her pupils wildly dilated, whispering "He looked at me... me!"

And rarely for something so bound up in the glory of the moment, his urgency travels on to record too. *Hysteria Unknown*, the second single from his band, Strangelove, is — and I know I am occasionally prone to exaggeration, but this is the simple, objective truth — one of the greatest singles ever recorded.

Three-and-a-half minutes of wildly spralling guitars, unforgoably passionate, painfully restless: finding momentary release in serried ranks of double-tracked Duffs repeating the words, "Hysteria unknown", as his primary vocals urgently cry, "Go anywhere/That's far away/Lie quietly down and die in shame", before launching themselves back into the confusion. *Hysteria Unknown* is an extra bonus B-side to Strangelove's new single, *Living with the Human Machines*. And it's not the best thing on there.

"Machines make me shudder. I can't be doing with them," Duff explains, twisting uneasily in his chair. "My flatmate has an answerphone, but I won't touch it. Computers — I'll never get my head around them. Imagine pouring what's in your mind into something plastic and metal — I find that vaguely revolting."

"I can't believe that people invite these contraptions into their houses. It's like trying to domesticate lions — they'll always be at odds with you, you can never tame them. Of course, I plug in my guitar to a machine,

and I sing into a machine, but at least there's something human there. I can mess it up, make it mine. Most humans are essentially lonely anyway — why try and keep us further apart with these electric partitions?" Duff shivers. "When you walk the streets, and start counting up the machines that surround you, you realise technology — steel and nickel and alloy and wire and electricity — outnumber humans by ten to one."

"The world's gradually becoming binary, black and white — we're eradicating doubt and areas of leniency. It's all either



CAITLIN MORAN

fact or fiction, true or false. And humans thrive on the unexplained; the gaps that you can fill with unclassifiable things like song, prose, poetry, conversation and love. And when all those areas have been paved over and wired up, humanity will disappear." This revulsion translates to the single, a Nick Cave-esque plea to the skies with a needling violin that puts the teeth on edge as Duff hollers his despair and doubt.

Patrick has had a lot of time to ponder humanity's foibles — spending ten weeks in rehab, away from televisions, newspapers, books, friends and music tends to concentrate the mind wonderfully. "I was, am, an alcoholic. Since I went to rehab I feel like I've been reborn — but not in that horrible New Age Californian way. It's like I'm doing everything for the first time."

"Half of me wanted to show off, wanted to perform, wanted to be famous — and the other half thought that was immoral. So I drank. If I was drunk, that was an excuse, a reason for being like I was. Now I have no excuses — everything I do is because I want to. I have to take responsibility for my actions. But it's cool."

"It's like living your life twice, as different people. I've been the drunken, obnoxious Patrick. And now I get to do my life again as the sober, reasoned Patrick."

● The single, *Living with the Human Machines*, is out now on Food Records. The album, *Love and Other Demons*, follows in June

NEW ALBUMS: Lionel Richie steers a course through familiar waters after a decade on the beach

The Commodore gets a bit wet

LIONEL RICHIE
Louder than Words
(Mercury 532 241)

IT has been ten years since Lionel Richie's last new album, *Dancing on the Ceiling*, a leisurely rate of output even for a former Motown superstar. But, unlike the comparably sporadic releases of Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson, *Louder than Words* arrives without fuss or fanfare, confirming Richie's curiously undervalued status among the heavy hitters of black American pop.

A performer who habitually plays well within his game, Richie continues to write and perform songs that deal in simple emotions simply expressed. Most levels of meaning within his lyrics can be gleaned from the titles alone — *Can't Get Over You*, *Don't Wanna Lose You*, *Now You're Gone*, *Still in Love* — and there is a gentle but persistent bias in favour of safe, schmaltzy ballads.

But it is when Richie attempts something a little more adventurous — such as the strangely aching vocal and crazy funk bass line of *Change* or the high-rolling jazz swing of *Lovers at First Sight* — that you get a tantalising glimpse of what the man is truly capable.

THE WALKABOUTS
Devil's Road
(Virgin 724384134021)

CONVENED in Seattle 12 years ago and signed to the Sub Pop label for six years, the Walkabouts nevertheless seem to have been completely unaffected by the rise and fall of grunge. Their music is rooted in the baroque, storytelling tradition of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, and it is no coincidence that *Devil's Road* was produced by the Australian Victor Van Vugt, best known for his work with Cave.

The songs, all written by Chris Eckman, are peopled with drifters and desperadoes and often conjure a sense of earnest wonder: "Even the mightiest rivers will bend/Before they vanish in the sand". Conventional rock band instrumentation is augmented by violin and pedal steel, while much of the



Lionel Richie: no jokes about him being a shadow of his former self, please

album's doomy grandeur derives from Mark Nichols's dramatic string arrangements, performed by the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra.

The singing duties are divided between Eckman (a deep, Cave-man

growl) and Carla Torgerson (a contrastingly high, frosty tone), and, since the two hardly ever feature on the same song together it feels, at times, as if there is a tug of war going on over the album's soul.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Greatest Hits | Take That (RCA) |
| 2. What's the Story Morning Glory? | Oasis (Creation) |
| 3. Falling Into You | Celine Dion (Epic) |
| 4. Jagged Little Pill | Alanis Morissette (Maverick) |
| 5. Wildest Dreams | Tina Turner (Parlophone) |
| 6. Ezzard Fright I & II | M People (Deconstruction) |
| 7. Hits | Mike & the Mechanics (Virgin) |
| 8. Mosley Shoals | Ocean Colour Scene (MCA) |
| 9. Different Class | Pulp (Island) |
| 10. Garbage | Garbage (Mushroom) |

THE BELOVED

X
(East West 0630-13316)

THE husband and wife duo of Jon and Helena Marsh, better known as the Beloved, carry on peddling a peculiarly shallow brand of blissed-out dance music on the enigmatically titled *X*. The formula depends on synthesized chord sequences and effects, a mechanised beat and intermittent bouts of lovey-dovey stage whispering by Jon. The result is songs of limited melodic and rhythmic invention and lyrics that are simple-minded, at best.

Without the visual distraction of all those naked bodies on the video of *Satellite*, the track fails to sustain interest in its thumping house beat and pseudo-gospel chants. And, while there are more imaginatively syncopated numbers, notably *Missing You*, and an intriguingly cool shuffle on the off-beat called *Three Steps to Heaven*, it is not enough to make the pudding rise.

COCTEAU TWINS

Milk & Kisses
(Fontana/Mercury 514 501)

THE Twins have often been imitated but could never be mistaken for anyone else. From the echoing, opening chords of *Violaine* to the majestic, drifting finale of *Seekers Who Are Lovers*, their new album inhabits a musical world of its own.

For a group who have been together for 14 years, they have surrendered surprisingly little of their mystique. True to form, the abstract cover artwork of *Milk & Kisses* gives away little beyond a list of impenetrable titles including *Rilkean Heart*, *Tishbite*, *Eperdu* and *Calfskin Smack*, while Liz Frazer continues to use her tremulous soprano to skip and skate across the melodies, forming delicate clusters of syllables with no discernible meaning.

There are some lovely tunes, and the arrangements are more firmly and finely structured than has often been the case in the past. But for all their fragile beauty the songs evoke little more than a creeping sense of *déjà vu*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CASSANDRA
wilson

"A vocalist so good it's hard to believe she really exists."

Independent on Sunday

"Outstanding"

The Wire

"... amazing American vocalist... transforming material by U2 and Neil Young into music they could only have dreamed of. Unmissable."

Time Out

"... one of the most breathtaking voices of the 1990s."

Observer

Experience the voice of Cassandra Wilson on her new album *New Moon Daughter*

spellbinding collection of pop, blues, roots & jazz

CD available now on

Unknown veteran makes confident start to first Masters challenge

Dougherty soaks up the Augusta atmosphere



ANDREW LONGMORE
At Augusta

As Ed Dougherty stood on the 1st tee at the Masters yesterday morning, the sunlight breaking through the air still chill, John O'Connor was praying for one more good shot. Just for old time's sake, for the sake of all those hours trudging round the Edgmont course together and the 21 years it has taken his old friend to reach the lofty eminence of that 1st tee.

Dougherty, a smile of relief crossing his well-worn face, duly obliged, his drive soaring down the fairway to a position even the man himself never really believed he would find. At the age of 48, Dougherty has waited longer than most to make his debut among the rhododendrons and the cypress trees of the Augusta National and, he admitted earlier in the week, having him rather than in front at least gave him a sense of perspective.

A Vietnam veteran, albeit reluctantly advertised, and a regular visitor to the dreaded "Q" school, where thrusting tyros and ageing pros try to gain their US PGA card, he has known worse feelings than standing in front of a few people at America's spiritual home of golf and hitting a little white ball towards a yellow flag. Yet it still did not steady his swing or his knees when it came right down to it.

"I only began thinking about golf when I hit a decent pitch on the 3rd," he said. What had been occupying him before that? "The thrill of being here, the atmosphere, what it will mean to those friends who I've known since I first started playing. That's why this is so special."

Halfway down the 1st tee, Dougherty stopped to share the time of day with friends, not something you might catch Nick Faldo doing at the opening hole of a major. Then he went and hit his second into a bunker — "a horrible shot,"

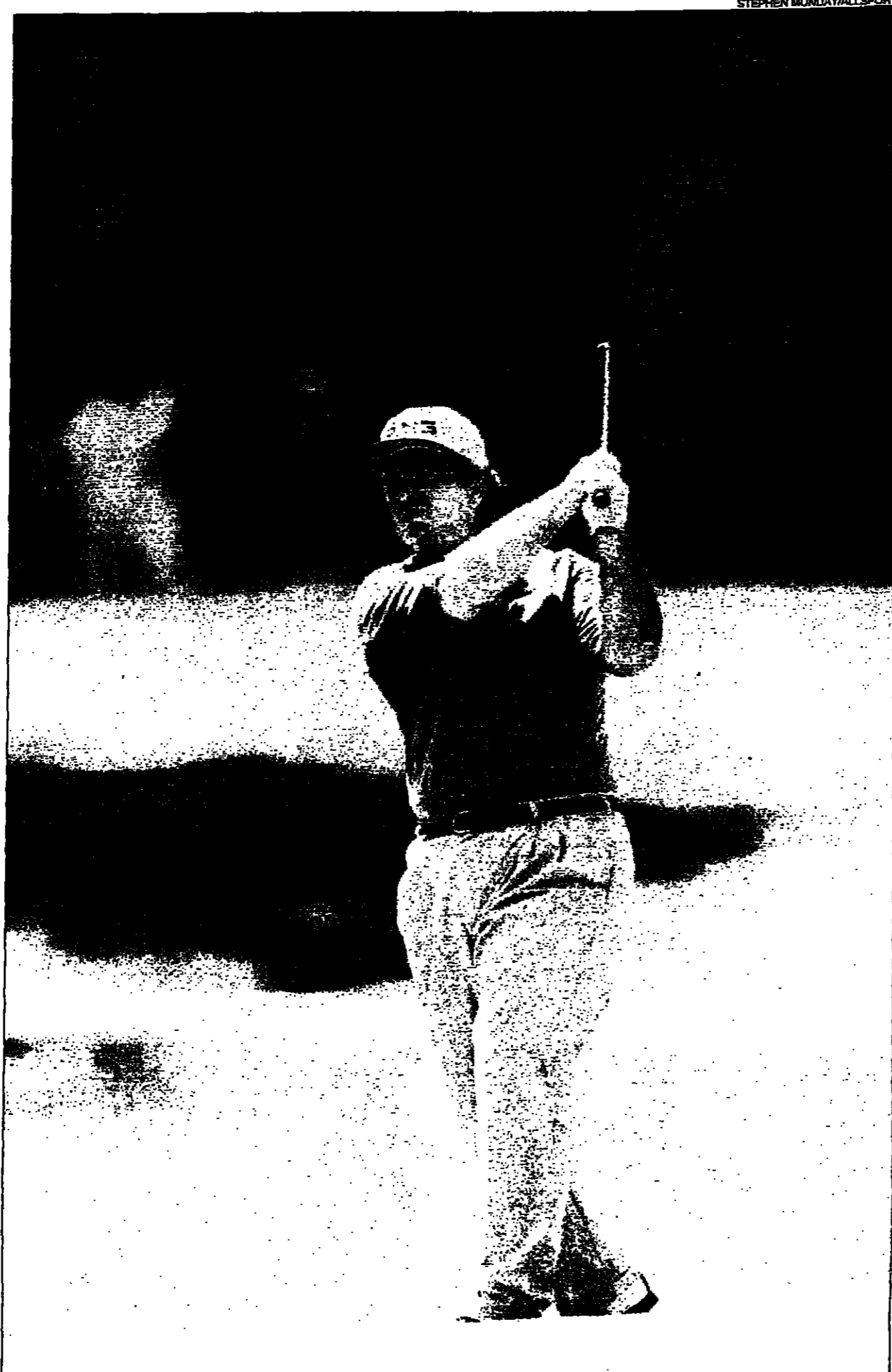
he later admitted. Two holes later, he was two over par and beginning to wonder whether the whole thing, the round he had lived through in his imagination roughly every springtime, was not going to slip into embarrassment. Even when he made the putting green, the surface was quicker, more slippery, than he had anticipated. "Scariest than it was in practice," he said.

Perhaps Augusta's tradition, its companionship, its clubbiness and exclusivity, which can be both warming and intimidating but is unchangeable either way, was also a lonelier feeling than he had expected, something deeper than the mere mispronunciation of his name — it is Docherty, not Dowerly — which had nearly cost him his hotel booking at the start of the week.

'The thrill of being here. That's why this is so special'

Dougherty's sense of belonging had to be home-made, brought with him in the form of his wife, Carolyn, and men like O'Connor and Bill Payne, people with whom he shared a barbecue the previous evening and much of his well-patched life before that. "Hell," Payne said as he walked up the 18th, "we've walked a long way from where we came from."

In golfing terms, a brief moment at the head of the US PGA leaderboard — "they were just putting up the 'y' as they were taking down the 'd'," as he memorably put it at the time — brought one family connection no one could match. When Dougherty and Mike Furyk were in their twenties and assistant professionals at Edgmont, they would shut up shop early to catch a final few holes on the course before sundown. One evening, the call came through on the course that Furyk's wife had gone into labour. Some hours later, she produced Jim Furyk, who yesterday completed a circle of sorts by making his Masters



Dougherty drives to the green at the 18th, completing his first round in the Masters at Augusta yesterday

debut, at the age of 25. "When Jimmie came onto the circuit," Dougherty said. "That's when I began to feel really old."

As if advancing age was not enough to contend with, a long-standing neck injury, suffered while moving a pinball machine, has been causing Dougherty pain for some months now. Restoring pin-

ball machines is one of Dougherty's hobbies. Model trains is another, safer, one.

By rights, he should have had an operation done during the winter, but having qualified for the Masters by winning the Deposit Guarantee Golf Classic (such catchy titles) last season, he was not about to risk the accomplishment of his life merely through the

surgeon's knife. "I don't think I would be putting it off for anything else," he said.

It would be nice to report a happy ending to this story, but a double-bogey six on the last ruined an otherwise respectable round. A 76, four over par, still leaves Dougherty with a chance of making the last two days and his pitch into the bank at the side of the 6th,

which bobbed up and landed about two feet from the hole, was the shot of the day, though few saw it.

Even fewer will remember the Doughertys of this tournament come Sunday afternoon. "I guess the Masters has done quite well without me until now," he said. It will be all the richer for his presence this week, though.

Ford is left out in the cold after Warrington agree sale

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

NOT only has Mike Ford been left out of Warrington's side for the visit of Halifax in the Super League tonight, the club has agreed a deal for the former Great Britain scrum half to join Wakefield Trinity. Ford, 30, has to confirm the move himself, but appears to have little option. Since leaving Castleford two years ago, not much has gone right for the former Wigan scrum half. A season with South Queensland Crusaders failed to work out, while infrequent and indifferent displays have punctuated his short time at Wilderspool.

John Dorahy, the Warrington coach, said: "Mike showed in our opening game at Leeds, he is a tremendous competitor. Unfortunately for him, the club sees fit to let him go and perhaps the time is now right for a move. The final decision rests with Mike."

Ford's move to first-division Wakefield would keep him in good company, with Greg Mackay, whom Ford ousted at Warrington, enjoying a new lease of life alongside Garry Schofield at Huddersfield and Shane Cooper directing affairs behind the scrum at Widnes.

Kelly Shefford takes over at scrum half for Warrington and Mateaki Mafi, of Tonga, and Gary Chambers are recalled at centre and prop forward, respectively, following Monday's defeat at Wigan.

Like Leeds, who yesterday announced the first of three overseas signings — Nathan Picchi, 21, a New Zealand loose forward, previously with Hawkes Bay — Halifax, surprisingly, are bumping along the bottom of the Super League without a win. They had chances to beat London Broncos and Oldham Bears and, abjectly, surrendered an 18-point lead to Castleford Tigers on Tuesday.

Halifax must do without Graeme Hallas, the wing, and Paul Anderson, a prop, who were given two-match bans by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee last night. Hallas was cited by the League for a challenge on Rob Myler, the Oldham wing, who sustained a broken nose. Anderson was sent off in the same match for a dangerous tackle.

A one-match ban for Karl Fairbank has saved the Bradford Bulls forward from missing the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final on April 27. His punishment for a high tackle at Sheffield means that he will be absent from the Wembley dress-rehearsal at St Helens on Sunday.

Disciplined style of rivals sets example to Britain

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

A 6-5 DEFEAT by Latvia, one of the favourites to win pool B of the world ice hockey championships here, might have appeared a promising start for Great Britain, but the final game on the opening day of the tournament put that scoreline into perspective.

Belorussia beat Switzerland 4-2 in an outstanding game which was played at breathtaking pace and showed both teams to be highly skilled, as well as fast, fit and strong. Although the decisive goal came as the result of a goal-tending error, both goalkeepers made many excellent saves and both teams were highly effective on the break.

When Great Britain led Latvia 5-3, the obvious tactics should have been to play tight and close down the opposition. But British ice hockey places too little emphasis on defence and it was only the fine performance of Stephen Foster in the Great Britain goal that restricted the Latvians to three further goals. Far too often in the later stages of the game, he was left exposed.

Another aspect of Britain's game that must be addressed is the lack of discipline that incurs so many penalties. Three of Latvia's goals were scored with a Britain player in the penalty box and, while there were one or two refereeing decisions that could have been questioned, the penalties were, on the whole, deserved.

The Britain players must realise that the excessively physical style of play that is tolerated in their domestic game is not acceptable in international competition.

Doug Mason, the Canadian-born coach of the Holland team, believes that this lack of discipline gives his team a realistic chance of beating Britain. "If the referee is on top of it," he said, "Britain could get so many penalties that we will be able to take advantage and beat them, as long as we keep our own discipline."

It must be hoped that the Great Britain coach, Peter Woods, who watched the game between Belorussia and Switzerland, learnt from their physical but disciplined style.

After the Latvia game, Woods was critical of the officials. "The refereeing was a bit one-sided and the penalty which led to their winning goal was something of a mystery call," he said. "We had nine penalties while they had only two, and the refereeing was a major factor."

However, instead of querying the penalty decisions, Woods might be better served trying to prevent a repeat of the ill discipline which brought them about.

Pitch battle ends in time

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN ATLANTA

THE numerous administrative problems that threatened the cancellation of the six nations' hockey tournament here were resolved late on Wednesday night and the event was due to get underway yesterday on the practice pitch at the Clarke University stadium. Workmen were busy putting the finishing touches to the stadium's main pitch, which will be ready for use tomorrow. Today is a rest day, which will enable the work to be completed in time.

Mark Whitney, the director of communications for the United States Field Hockey Association, said yesterday that British protests had abated after a workout on the practice pitch. Britain had threatened to withdraw from the tournament.

The Clarke University stadium, which has a capacity of 5,000, will be one of two

venues used for the Olympic Games in July. A four nations' tournament for men and women was played here last August, but the main pitch was taken apart after complaints from participating teams and a ruling by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that it would not be suitable for an Olympic tournament.

The original intention, Whitney explained, was to hold the six nations' tournament at the Morris Brown College stadium, where the main matches for men and women at the Olympic Games are to be played. "Construction delays forced us to abandon the idea of holding the six nations' tournament there and to switch it to the Clarke University premises, where we ran into further problems," Whitney said.

By the middle of last week, the organisers thought of call-

ing the whole thing off, but, with strong urgings by the FIH, they decided to make a special effort to hold the event. "The FIH had stressed that the participating teams were depending on the six nations' tournament for the final selection of their Olympic squads," Whitney said.

The tournament is expected to be in full swing tomorrow, when all the matches will be switched from the practice ground to the main pitch. Great Britain are due to play Pakistan and, on Sunday, will take on India, with whom they drew 3-3 in the qualifying tournament in Barcelona in January.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD: S. Mason (Reading), D. Luckie (East Grinstead), J. Wyatt (Reading), J. Halls (Old Loughborough), S. Singh (Southgate), S. Hazell (Hounslow), J. Laidlaw (Reading), captain, K. Talbot (Canmore), R. Thompson (Hounslow), N. Thompson (Old Loughborough), C. Mayer (Canmore), G. Fordham (Hounslow), R. Garcia (Pinto Club, Barcelona), J. Shaw (Southgate), C. Giles (Pewsey), M. Peart (Reading).

Dutch warm up with comfortable victory

BY ALIX RAMSAY

CONCEDING five goals is hardly the best preparation for an international against Holland, but it is the best the Great Britain women's hockey team could manage yesterday at Bisham Abbey. The two sides met for a training match as part of the build-up for the televised encounter tomorrow, but the 5-2 scoreline would have done rather more for the Dutch morale.

Britain started enthusiastically, trying to break down a solid defence, but could not find a way through. The enthusiasm waned when they went a goal down, Steenberg hitting in from a penalty corner after 24 minutes. Ten minutes later, Holland showed how to slice through a lethargic defence, as Donners got the second.

Two goals in three minutes in the second half saw the

Dutch put paid to the British challenge. Lewin made it 3-0 with a stylish individual effort while Van der Wieler squeezed in the fourth after an error by Robb, in the Britain goal. The hosts made the score a little more respectable with a Fraser penalty corner and a Cook penalty stroke, but Holland's work was almost done. Just for good measure, Van der Wieler cracked in a fifth, with two minutes left.

Sue Slocombe, the Great Britain coach, had to admit that the Dutch had been "sharper and more clinical".

Despite the gloom at Bisham Abbey, celebrations are expected in Doncaster tomorrow. Highgate, the premier division leaders, have only to beat their Yorkshire hosts to win their first league title, having already won the European Cup Winners' Cup.

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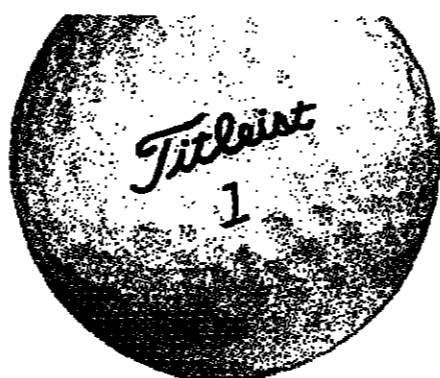
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a whole new ball game at the Masters.

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HP2
ball is gold.

Harrow hit back to clinch cup victory



Rugby Commentary

	P	W	D	L	T	B	Ph
Neath	18	13	1	4	94	27	50
Porthcerry	17	14	0	3	86	20	41
Cardiff	18	13	0	3	74	21	40
Llanelli	17	12	0	5	67	22	39
Swansea	19	10	0	9	71	18	36
Bridgend	19	10	0	9	67	16	36
Newport	18	10	1	7	37	8	25
Ebbw Vale	23	10	0	10	40	7	23
Newbridge	19	8	0	11	38	8	23
Treorchy	18	5	0	13	34	7	17
Abertillery	20	2	0	18	37	7	17

Hunt warms to challenge of facing the big freeze

Hunt gets into shape for his epic journey to the North Pole and the prospect of sub-zero temperatures and polar bears roaming the Arctic

and a lot of it is about challenging yourself. You don't have to do the daft things I'm doing but you should continually strive to do something more and not accept that where you are now is where you're going to be tomorrow.

"I don't really work. I'm a lazy person, but I find creative ways of getting people to do it for me." As Swindon make their final push for promotion, and Liverpool eye the FA Cup, he will be confronting the coldest of realities: he cannot delegate this job.

Chorley seek fitting reward for their revival in fortune

Sutton knows it must work better than the experience he endured when Rochdale Hornets shared Spotland. "Revenue was to be shared 45-45, with ten per cent going to the Council," he said. "It never got anywhere at all. There were two different offices, two different changing rooms and two different commercial staffs. It didn't really generate any profit." Under one roof, the prospects are far more promising.

The task tomorrow is to upset Macclesfield, whose manager, Sammy McIlroy, turned down the chance to succeed Sutton at Rochdale. "If we can keep them down to single figures in the first leg, we'll see what we can do in the second leg," he said.

FOR THE RECORD

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First div. Whedham 0 Durham 1; Merton 2 Whitby 1. Tow Law 3 Shildon 0.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Swindon Supermarine 6 Kintbury 0.

HERWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Shildon 1

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien/McKenzie Premier division Cup: Semi-final: Hatfield 3 Biggleswade 0
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 1 Trafford 1
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST: Football

UNIMEX SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Peacehaven and Telcombe 3 Ringmer 0; St Leonards 3 Langney Sports 1.
WINSTON LEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Dartford 1 Canterbury 0; Faversham 0 Fumess 8.
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Nat-

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Atalanta 1 Bari 2; Cagliari 1 Milan 2; Internazionale 0 Sampdoria 2; Juventus 0 Udinese 1; Lazio 4 Fiorentina 0; Napoli 1 Torino 0; Padova 1 Roma 2; Parma 2 Cremonese 0; Piacenza 0 Vicenza 1
GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayern Munich 1 St

Moenchengladbach 0; Fortuna Düsseldorf
2 Karslslautern 1; Hamburg 0 Freiburg 0
FRENCH LEAGUE: Metz 2 Besan 0; Lyon 1
Guingamp 1
DUTCH LEAGUE: Feyenoord Rotterdam 1
Sparta Rotterdam 1
SPANISH CUP: Eibar; Athletic Madrid 1

PORTUGUESE CUP: Semi-finals: Porto 1 Sporting 1 (aet); Benfica 2 União Leiria 0 (aet)
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Croatia 4 Hungary 1 (at Osijek).
SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools

Tyneside 1: Manchester 0, Newcastle 2;
Luton 1, Chester-le-Street 1, Newcastle B 6,
Chester-le-Street B 0; Hartlepool B 0.
Newnham 3; Bradford 0, Sunderland 4,
Bradford B 1, Kelso 3, Rother Valley 2,
Hartlepool 1, North Tyneside B 3, Rother

EXTRACTS

RUGBY LEAGUE
Kick-off 7.30
Stones Super League
Warrington v Halifax

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCH: Pontypool v Bridgend (7.0)

JUDO: British championships (Barnsley, Barnsley)

SPEEDWAY

SQUASH

3. Fowler (Can) bi J. Wirth (Aus) 7-1, 5-2, 3-3,
9-3, J. Ransome (Eng) bi T. Garner (Eng)
5-8, 9-4, 9-4, 9-7, P. Gregory (Eng) bi P. Steel
(NZ) 7-9, 0-9, 9-8, 9-4, 9-3, M. Calms (Eng)
bi C. Van der Walh (SA) 9-5, 9-1, 9-0, C.
Rowland (Aus) bi S. Khan (Fr) 9-7, 10-8, 9-3,
P. Johnson (Eng) bi T. Hands (Eng) 9-4, 9-5,
7-9, 9-2, A. Rylands (Can) bi A. Wirth

Burt (Holl) 9-6, 9-5, 9-3, A Hill (Aus) bi J
Nicole (Eng) 10-8, 9-3, 9-1, D Forslund
(Swe) bi D Ryan (Ire) 10-8, 9-10, 10-8, 9-2,
Zubair J Khan (Pak) bi B Davis (Aus) 3-9,
9-3, 9-0, 9-1: A Wajih (Egypt) bi Zarah J
Khan (Pak) 4-9, 9-5, 9-6, 9-3, S Meads
(Eng) bi F Usandapan (Ami) 9-2, 9-3, 7-9

8-0, 9-5, A Farcy (Egypt) bt J Bonet (Fr)
9-4, 9-4, 10-8, R Eyles (Aus) bt G Ryding
(Can) 9-0, 9-5, 9-3

TENNIS

Hearhus (Hol) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 6-3, 6-2. R Fromberg (Aus) bt J Bunko (Sp) 3-6, 7-6, 6-1. A Gaudenzi (It) bt R Carrettero (Sp) 4-6, 7-6, 7-5. T Carbonell (Sp) bt A Bonastegui (Sp) 7-6, 1-6, 7-6. T Muster (Austria) bt C Moye (Sp) 6-4, 6-2. A Corretja (Sp) bt J Bunko (Sp) 6-4, 6-2.

HONG KONG: Men's tournament. Second round: D Pinol (Ger) bt W Anthurs (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; S Matsushita (Japan) bt M Woodthorpe (Aus) 6-4, 2-6, 8-4. J Siemerink (Hol) bt K Carlson (Den) 6-3, 6-4; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-1, 6-2. R Krajcek (Hol) bt A Volkov (Russ) 7-6.

Samppras (US) bt P Rattler (Aus) 6-3, 7-6. M
Chang (US) bt H Dreckmann (Ger) 7-5, 6-3
NEW DELHI: Men's tournament: Second
round: C Carelli (It) bt N Kultti (Swe) 7-6,
7-5. J Goldmard (Ft) bt J Winnink (Hol)
6-1, 6-3. B Black (Zim) bt D Sapstord (GB)

AMELIA ISLAND: Women's tournament (US unless stated): Second round: S Hack (Ger) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6-1, 6-0; P Suarez (Arg) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 7-5, 6-2; V Ruano-Pascual (Esp) bt L Ghimbrus-Bubis (Fr) 6-2, 6-2; V Mouton (Ger) bt E

Malasova (Musar) 7-3, 3-1, 6-1, 5-1 (Musar)
(Ger) bl L. Neiland (Lat) 7-5, 6-2 T
Jermenska (Yug) bl K. Maleeva (Bul) 6-4,
3-6, 6-4; A. Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bl C
Popadala (Gr) 6-0, 7-6, M. McGrath bl K
Rinaldi Shunkel 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 M.J. Fernandez
bl R. Zubakova (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-3

round: S Appelmans (Bel) bt J Neyedyh (Can) 2-6, 6-4, 8-4. N Kijimuta (Japan) bt A Grossman (US) 6-4, 7-5. R Hirah (Japan) bt M Wendel Witmeyer (US) 6-4, 6-3. L Wild (US) bt J. Studenskova (Slovakia) 7-6, 3-6, 6-1.

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

Ballesteros recalls Augusta heyday with inspired recovery shots

Gilford shows first round mastery again

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA

THE Masters reveres tradition and, at Augusta National Golf Club, it is now traditional that David Gilford leads the Masters. The softly-spoken Englishman did so on his first visit to this famous tournament, in 1995, not allowing himself to be overawed as he walked in the footsteps of so much history. In his quiet, understated way, he did so again yesterday.

It was not for long in 1995, and it was not for long yesterday. Bob Tway, playing with Ted Tryba in the match ahead of Gilford, came in with a 67, five under par, to be the early leader in the first round. However, he was rudely shouldered aside by a storming 65 by Phil Mickelson. The left-hander, many people's favourite to win here, had an astonishing in-ward half of 30. Nevertheless, the name Gilford, accompanied by the red figure 2, to indicate he was two under par, appeared on leaderboards all over the course, and for a time there was no one to challenge him. Two under after three holes, Gilford jumped to four under after he eagled the 13th.

No other golf course in the world has such a capability to defend itself against anyone taking liberties with it. It offers the velvet glove one minute, the iron fist the next. The velvet glove had been proffered on the 13th. Gilford's three-iron ended 12 feet from the hole and he sank the putt for a three on a hole where players are sometimes grateful to escape with a five. As Gilford stood on the 16th tee, a six-iron in his hand, he might have sensed he was about to be hit by the iron fist.

All week there has been a biting wind in this part of Georgia. This, combined with morning and evening cutting of the greens, made them as fast as in recent memory on the opening day. Gilford's tee shot on the 16th ended 30 feet from the flag, which was positioned in the top right-hand corner of the green. His first attempt on this notorious-

ly tricky green, which is exceptionally fast, almost stopped by the hole.

"I hit it a smidgen too much," Gilford said. The result was that, after almost coming to a halt, it slowly gained momentum and began running back down the green. It ended further away than it had started. Welcome to Augusta, to what Johnny Miller calls the spring putting contest.

Gilford's next putt shot past the hole, so did his next and it was with some relief that he holed out for a five, a double bogey. Gilford's excessive quietness is not a front. He really is as imperturbable as he seems and this characteristic



Tway: early leader

came to his rescue now for, regrouping himself and his emotions, he hit a nine-iron to four feet and sank it for a birdie, his third of the day, on the 17th. He finished with a par four for a 69, one stroke ahead of Paul Azinger.

In the United States, Gilford is known not only for his soft-spoken nature and his putt to defeat Brad Faxon in the last Ryder Cup. Word that he is a gentleman farmer has reached these shores, too, bringing with it numerous jokes about mad cow disease.

"A one-man farm can sometimes be 250 acres; mine is 50," Gilford said. "It really is a hobby. I have 25 to 30 cattle

aged between 2½ and six years old. I have never had a case of BSE. Normally my cattle would fetch £150 each, but now I suppose they are worth nothing." He paused and smiled before adding: "I am still eating beef."

Right on cue for the start of the sixtieth Masters, the temperature rose and what could pass for a proper spring sun in these southern states of the United States came out to shine on Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead and Byron Nelson as they performed the opening ceremony. Sarazen, Nelson and finally Snead, whose ages total 261 years, all drove from the 1st tee, in a vivid, Froustian tableau, a blessed remembrance of times past.

All three found the fairway, which was more than could be said for Severiano Ballesteros, who bunkered his drives at the 1st and 2nd, at the short 4th, and the long 8th. You would not have known it from his score. With the sort of wizardry that must have impressed his young nephews who, with their father, Manuel, were leading the Ballesteros support group, he saved par on the 1st and 2nd and squeezed a birdie out of the uphill 8th to reach the turn in 38.

His swing on the raised 10th tee looked as smooth as ever, etched in the mind's eye against a background of pine trees, but in attempting to draw his drive so that his ball would land and bound down the slope, Ballesteros overdid it. The ball ricocheted from a tree on the left of the fairway and stopped perhaps 230 yards from the tee, 60 yards behind Jeff Maggert, not a notably long hitter. From a downhill and sidehill lie, Ballesteros hit a thin-looking iron shot that ended short and left of the green. Again his short game came to his rescue. He pitched to nine feet and holed.

That recovery marked the start of a good run. He came back in 35, one under par, thanks to a birdie on the 15th, and his 73 is a better score than you would have thought possible if you had watched him driving on the 1st and 2nd holes. Augusta, a course and a place Ballesteros adores, may yet prove to be a welcome stop on his journey to recovery.

For Frank Nobilo, like Gilford playing in his second Masters, it provided a new experience. Peter Jacobsen, his playing partner, had withdrawn only moments before testing off suffering from sore muscles in his chest. Nobilo played the first two holes on his own. "It was weird," the New Zealander said after his 71. "It was like going to a wedding without the bride."

It was a lot less weird, however, than Sam Torrance's 80, his worst score here by four strokes. For Torrance, for whom so much seems to be going so well, this was a rare setback and in marked contrast to the brilliance of his playing partner, Mickelson.



Gilford acknowledges the applause of the appreciative gallery during his superb first round at Augusta

Portuguese club may offer misfit Brolin an escape route

BY DAVID MADDOCK

TOMAS BROLIN, the Leeds United forward, is about to end his troubled tenure at Elland Road. The player's agent was in Portugal last night, for talks with FC Porto about a prospective transfer.

Brolin, a Sweden international, has publicly declared his determination to leave Leeds, just four months after joining the club in a £4.5 million transfer. Described as coming in the club's history, he was constantly overlooked by Howard Wilkinson, the manager, as relations between the pair appeared to degenerate.

Brolin was only a substitute at the Coca-Cola Cup final, and afterwards expressed his wish for a speedy departure, when told by Tommy Svensson, the Sweden manager, that his international place was in jeopardy.

Now Lars Petersen, his agent, is negotiating the move that will end an unhappy chapter in his career. He said that talks were progressing with Porto, and added: "I think it is time for Tomas to move to another club."

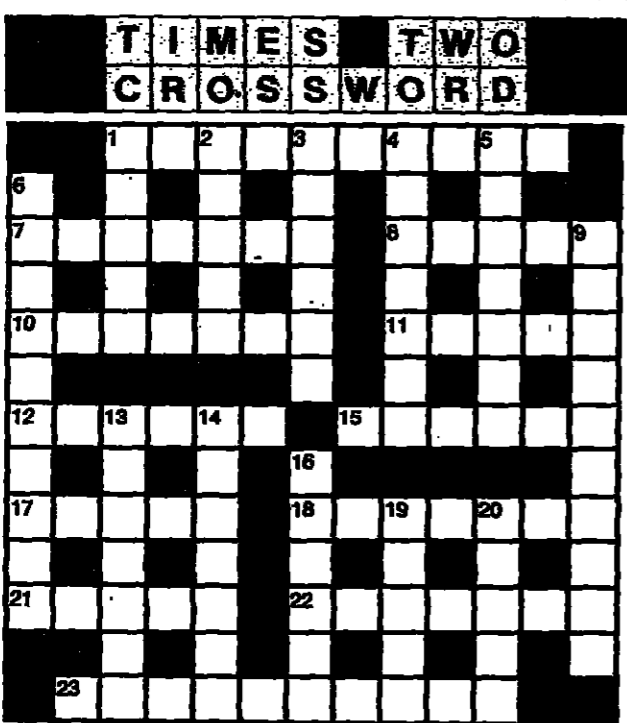
Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, has been barred from receiving FA Cup final tickets for the next ten years, after it was discovered that two tickets allocated to him for last year's final had been sold on for a figure nearly six times their face value.

The Football Association (FA) accepted that McCarthy had not profited from the sale. He had given the tickets to friends, who had sold them on. A spokesman for the FA, however, said that the situation reflected the need for supreme caution.

"We want to avoid these situations at all costs," he said. "Mr McCarthy's £60 tickets were sold to Norwegians for £350 each, and that really does bring the game into disrepute. It is a rip-off."

Ivano Bonetti, of Grimsby Town, has finally made peace with Brian Laws, his club manager. The Italian forward, who signed from Juventus, suffered a fractured cheekbone after a dressing-room altercation with Laws earlier this season. Yesterday, however, Bonetti pledged his future to the club. "I want to play for the club. I have no further argument with the manager," he said.

Advertisement for Guinness Extra Stout, featuring a bottle and the text: "Brewed under the influence (of our great grandfather)".



No 754

ACROSS

- 1 Scented foam for tub (6,4)
- 7 Current/resistance/PD relationship (4,3)
- 8 Circumference (5)
- 10 Undress (7)
- 11 Once more (5)
- 12 Psychic energy (6)
- 15 Session with medium (6)
- 17 Tiny piece of bread or comfort (5)
- 18 Give way to influence (7)
- 21 Pacific island, rugby in West (5)
- 22 Hard cheese (7)
- 23 Right in the middle (4,6)

DOWN

- 1 Knocks against: child's eg (5)
- 2 Phil Silvers' Sergeant (5)
- 3 Unemphatic (3,3)
- 4 Impediments: naughty woman (7)
- 5 Land, esp. the lie of it (7)
- 6 Three Boys' girl (10)
- 9 German WW1 marshal, had a line (10)
- 13 One from Birmingham (7)
- 14 Expert (slang) (3,4)
- 16 Nymph loved by Cupid; the soul (6)
- 19 Trickster (5)
- 20 Excessive (5)

The solution to 753 will be published Wednesday, April 17

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Clubs appeal to Bishop in attempt to break deadlock with RFU

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BILL BISHOP, the president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), is the man who can break the deadlock between the union and its leading clubs. Yesterday, the clubs appealed to Bishop to exert his authority in the search for a reconciliation, without which they will withdraw from all RFU competitions next season.

Only a year ago, Bishop, then senior vice-president, was cast in the role of "old far" after televised comments about the RFU committee by Will Carling, then England captain. Now, the 66-year-old Cornishman may become a unifying force but only by overriding the union's negotiating panel, including Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive committee but perceived by the clubs as the main stumbling block.

Twelve club representatives - nine from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship and three from the second, including the six directors of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd (EPRUC) - met in London yesterday and agreed not to participate in the RFU club

structure proposed for the coming season. Instead, they seek the union's acceptance of their own structure, embracing a 12-club English Conference, plus an Anglo-Welsh tournament and European competition.

"We accept that the union is the governing body," Donald Kerr, the EPRUC chairman, said. "But we do want to arrange and manage our own affairs and maximise the revenue we need to run our clubs. At this stage we don't intend to resign from the union but we are fighting for our future. If anyone at the RFU thinks this is a game of bluff, they are sadly mistaken."

After a five-hour meeting, the club representatives emerged to claim that not only did they carry their own management boards with them - and by extension club members - but that leading players, whose representatives met the RFU yesterday, were fully informed of their intentions.

"We are not some Packer-type organisation who will go off and play rebel rugby," Peter Wheeler, spokesman for the first division clubs, said. "We are a body of clubs that have been around for 100 years and more, we have deep

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES

US unless stated, par 72
65: P Mickelson
67: R Tway
68: L Jansen
68: D Gilford (GB), B Faxon
70: P Azinger, S McCarron, S McCarron
71: T Aaron, J Maggert, F Nobilo (NZ), N Price (Zim), S Lowery
72: T Tryba, H Sutton
73: S Ballesteros (Sp)

74: D A Webb, J Sluman, M Roe (GB), A Palmer
75: G Brewer, B Casper
76: K Tipton, E Dougherty, N Lancaster, T Henon, B Hanning
78: B Bryant, M McCumber, I Baker-Finch (Aus)
79: G Marucci, S Torrance (GB)
81: D Ford
82: C Coody
Withdraw: P Jacobsen
* amateur

roots in our communities. We are not a bunch of guys coming along, looking to make a fast buck or hijack anything. We believe this is the right way forward."

Though the clubs may be temporising now, their belief, is that they have both the commercial and television support to sustain a breakaway. If they cannot reach

Thomas Wacker, 52, an American-born Irishman, is to be the new chief executive of the International Rugby Football Board. Wacker, an investment banker, was named yesterday to succeed Keith Rowlands and will start his new job on May 1. Wacker was chairman of IFG International and First National Trustee Company.

accord with the union, they intend to put their independent plans in motion and begin their English Conference games on August 31.

"Even at this late hour we believe that a compromise solution must be reached with the RFU, otherwise there will be a split for which the RFU will be held responsible," a statement said. That is the

position which the union's full committee will discuss today.

"I'm delighted they have stopped short of a breakaway or anything that would make the position very difficult to reconcile," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said. The clubs believe it significant that Bishop was not present on Tuesday, when the RFU declared its unbending opposition to the concept of shared control of the English game - a concept which has drawn support from, among others, Syd Millar, president of the Irish Rugby Football Union. "It's a pity that one or two of Cliff Brittle's colleagues on the RFU are stabbing him in the back," Millar said, suggesting that English clubs were taking the road to bankruptcy.

Their contention is that they will arrive there anyway, if they toe the RFU line. "The RFU has made it clear that there is no more money to fund the professional game next year," Wheeler said. "We have nothing to lose going outside the union."

"But we are moving to the point where we are staring down the barrel, and that's where common sense must prevail."

Sports letters, page 34



France's fading stars
Kate Muir on the death of haute cuisine
WEEKEND



Anatole Kaletsky
on life under Labour
Part one, PAGE 20



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WEEKEND. PAGE 10



Summer of '96
40 pages of men's fashion
MAGAZINE

Middle class? John is still working class, says Mr Prescott senior



Son: convert

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT, who made the ultimate leap for new Labour yesterday when he abandoned his working-class roots and announced he had joined the middle classes, was rebuked by his 85-year-old father last night.

The deputy Labour leader, whose class warrior approach to politics and abrasive rhetoric had often seemed at odds with Tony Blair's attempts to modernise the party, took even his enemies by surprise.

Challenged about Labour's move away from its working-class traditions on Radio 4's *Today* programme yesterday Mr Prescott, former ship-

ping steward and MP for Hull East, replied: "I can tell you, I'm pretty middle class."

Nobody was more astonished by his class conversion than his father, John, a former railway signaller, who said: "He is the son of a railwayman and grandson of a miner. How can he be anything other than working class? John worked as a steward on ships serving drinks to well-to-do passengers. If that's not working class I cannot think what is. When I see him I shall ask him what he thinks he's playing at. He should be proud to be working class. I am."

Mr Prescott, 55, and his wife, Pauline, live in an eight-bedroom house with crenellations in a row of smart detached houses on the edge of

East Hull, known locally as "Prescott Towers".

Mr Prescott senior, who lives in a £32-a-week one-bedroom council flat in Chester, said: "I live in the hope of seeing him in an even bigger house. The one at 10 Downing Street. But he would still be the same working-class lad I brought up."

John has had to work all his life, which makes him working class. I know some people think they can move up a class in life if they get on a bit but they are daft. Once you are working class that's the end of it. There is too much middle-class talk in today's Labour Party."

Mr Prescott senior, a Labour Party stalwart for 60 years, former councillor and magistrate, said: "I had small

savings with the Red Cross and cashed in all my insurance policies to buy the house. John has a grand big house and garden but that does not put him up in a different class."

It's because of his working-class values that he has become what he is. I am very proud of him. But he has to stop this middle-class nonsense. Some boys still listen to their father, you know, no matter how old they are."

There was also disappointment in Hull at Mr Prescott's conversion. John Canvess, secretary of Hull Trades & Labour Club, said: "We don't want any truck with this middle-class talk here." At the Belmont social club in his constituency they were not surprised. Leslie

Runkee, the secretary, said: "He is a hypocrite. They are all as bad."

Harry Woodford, a Hull Labour councillor and Mr Prescott's agent, said: "I don't care what class anybody is as long as they vote Labour."

Ken Turner, shipping grades organiser in Hull for the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union worked on the ships when Mr Prescott was a steward and has known the MP since 1964. "He's not lost any of his working-class values, his position remains as it always was on the side of the workers."

Mr Prescott was unmoved: "Only in England could you have a big argument about class."



Father: astonished

Is class a myth?, page 5

'Soul-searching' plea by Redwood Right calls for change after poll collapse

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND PETER RIDDELL

JOHN MAJOR faced a fresh outbreak of unrest in the Tory party last night as right-wing MPs demanded a change of direction in the wake of a devastating by-election setback for the Government.

Hours after the Labour Party inflicted a stunning defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election, turning a Conservative majority of 7,192 into a Labour one of 13,762 and reducing the Government's majority to one, senior Conservatives issued a warning of further electoral losses unless new policies were introduced swiftly.

A string of right-wing MPs called for further tax cuts and clearer policies on Europe to win back voters. John Redwood, the former Cabinet minister, led criticism of the party's recent strategy by attacking the lack of vision and demanding a "moral crusade" of tax-cutting to win back Tory supporters. Writing in *The Times* today, Mr Redwood calls for some "soul-searching" by the Conservatives and says that the by-election result should not be "brushed aside too readily by the Government. People's worries should be taken seriously."

Defeat aftermath

John Redwood	9
Anatole Kaletsky	20
Leading article, letters	21
Graham Searjeant	29

Senior Tories admitted that they were shaken by the size of Labour's victory. "This is about as bad as we could have expected," one party campaigner said.

A jubilant Tony Blair said last night that Labour's triumph meant that it now cut across traditional class and party divisions and was the only party representing the centre and capable of uniting the country.

Speaking as he finished a three-day visit to Washington, Mr Blair said that it was increasingly possible that the general election would come earlier than next year. It was time for the people to make their choice. He wanted to ensure that Labour was in shape to govern the country.

Speaking in Washington, the Labour leader sought to appear the national rather than party leader, saying that at his White House meeting with President Clinton yesterday they had discussed world problems such as Northern Ireland, free trade and global economic insecurity rather than merely partisan matters.

The President praised Mr Blair for his "very statesman-like" approach to the Northern Ireland peace process, treating the Labour leader like a prime minister in waiting.

In London, Mr Major made clear that he is not preparing a

change of course to attract Tory voters, insisting that more work needed to be done "to get our message across". But Tories voiced fears that further heavy defeats in next month's local elections could allow Labour to build up an unstoppable momentum.

Although the Prime Minister conceded that the by-election defeat was disappointing, he tried to calm Tory nerves by telling MPs not to over-react to the result and by reminding them that the party had bounced back from by-election setbacks to win general elections.

"I remember many people consigned the Government to oblivion after the Ribbles Valley by-election, where the swing was the same. We went on to win the general election a year later with the largest popular vote ever. I am disappointed by last night's result, but politics is not an easy ride. I am here to do what is right and stick with it."

It was Mr Blair's claim that the result showed Labour as a new party of the centre ground that prompted Tory right-wingers to press for a more distinctive approach from the Government.

Nicholas Budgen, a leading right-wing Tory MP and Euro-sceptic, said the party had not been radical enough and too much attention was being given to "the so-called 'middle ground'."

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, appeared to support calls for a change of emphasis. He said: "Yesterday's by-election must be the signal for a new Conservative crusade to alert people to the dangers they face from a Labour government."



Susannah Schofield, widow of the BBC radio reporter John Schofield, who was killed in Croatia last year, shows off their daughter Charlotte, now six days old. Mr Schofield had covered the Balkan conflict since hostilities began in 1991

Thousands flee as Israeli jets attack Lebanon

By ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAELI helicopters and jets yesterday carried out a series of attacks on Beirut and other Lebanese towns and villages. Syria said one of its soldiers was killed and seven were seriously wounded at an air defence position in the Lebanese capital. Witnesses said that at least 12 people, including civilians, were hurt in Beirut. Israel denied it was targeting Syrian troops. However, Herzl Bondinger, Israel's air force commander, said yesterday that the attacks on Lebanon would continue throughout the night.

An Israeli spokesman said its warplanes and helicopters were hunting Hezbollah targets in Beirut and the south, where thousands of people fled after being warned that attacks would target 49 towns and villages within four hours. The deadline was later extended by two hours. Israeli planes then carried out at least six raids. Lebanese security sources said eight civilians were killed and eight wounded in the Bekaa Valley.

The attack on the valley, where many of the 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon are stationed, increased the risk of dragging Damascus into the conflict.

evacuated from Lebanon today and many others who planned to visit the region over the next few weeks have cancelled their plans.

The decision was taken after the Foreign Office issued a warning yesterday that "travel south of Beirut is inadvisable", stepping up its previous advice to visitors simply to take care.

As soon as the attacks began, Cox and Kings, a British tour operator with two groups in Lebanon, organised an airlift for a party of 12 who had arrived in Beirut only 24 hours earlier.

"Naturally we are worried that the problem will escalate and we do not want to put any of our customers at risk," said Jenny Hand, from Cox and Kings. Another of the company's groups, which had flown to Syria and was due to spend a day in the Bekaa Valley, will now be redirected.

Other tour operators are also planning to change itineraries. Sheila Taylor of Martin Randall Travel described the fighting as "heartbreaking". She said, however, that the firm had to pull its clients out or to change their travel plans.

Israeli attacks, page 11
Leading article, page 21

Winter makes a comeback

Parts of Britain were hit by snow, sleet and freezing temperatures. Motorists in the Pennines and the Peak District faced heavy rain and snow flurries. The London Weather Centre said that it would get warmer again today and above-average temperatures are expected by Tuesday. Page 24

Mercy killing

An elderly cancer victim died after her son gave her medical heroin "to ease her agony". The man called for new laws to allow mercy killing as police investigated. Page 3

Teenager on murder charge escapes

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGER accused of murder was on the run last night after escaping when a social worker took him to a swimming pool for a "mobility" programme.

Cleon Reid, 15, fled from the pool at Crystal Palace sports centre in south London after being left unguarded in the changing rooms.

A judge at the Old Bailey gave permission for the youth to be named because he said he represented a potential danger to the public. The youth, who lives in Lewisham,

south London, is accused of murdering Ted Howell, 75, last November. The pensioner was alleged to have been stabbed to death during a burglary at his home in Lewisham.

Cleon Reid was arrested on December 16 and at Camberwell youth court was remanded into the care of Lewisham council's social services department, on condition that he was placed in secure accommodation. The council has no accommodation of that standard so it put him in Orchard House, secure accommodation run by Southwark council. Judge Geoffrey Grigson

agreed yesterday that the youth's identity should be made public after being told of his escape.

Nicholas Wood, for the prosecution, told the judge that the teenager had been taken to the swimming pool by a social worker. "He is now on the run and police are understandably extremely concerned."

Last night as Southwark officials began an investigation into how the youth had escaped, the two local authorities were involved in a dispute over the terms under which he had been allowed to leave Orchard House.



Reid: fled after swim

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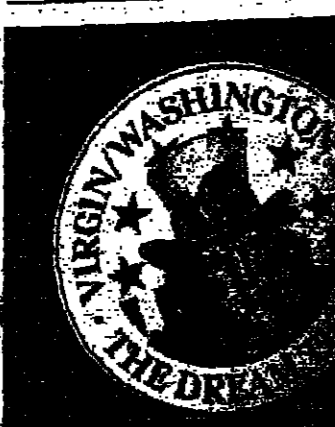


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13 PAGES OF SPORT

Can Greg Norman win his first Masters?
John Hopkins reports from Augusta



PLUS:
Can Newcastle keep up the championship chase?
Rob Hughes reports from St James's Park

French company plans to keep 30-year-old rolling stock and cut jobs

New rail chief dashes commuters' hopes

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of south of England commuters were condemned to travelling on 30-year-old "slam-door" trains for the foreseeable future yesterday by the new French owners of their rail franchise.

The French water company, Générale des Eaux, which won the franchise to run Network SouthCentral has warned that there are likely to be job losses among NSC's 3,000 employees and says it has no plans to replace ageing rolling stock on routes between London and the south coast during its seven year contract starting this summer. Instead, the fleet of 800 Mark 1 electric units, built in York between 1963 and 1967, will be

refurbished to extend their lives to the end of the franchise in 2003, when they will have completed 40 years of service.

Antoine Hurel, the vice chairman of London and South Coast railways, the subsidiary of Générale des Eaux that will run the franchise, said the company would spend up to £10 million improving trains and stations, a maximum of £12,500 per train.

However, rail experts said the planned expenditure would do little to improve the cramped and uncomfortable travelling conditions of commuters. "That's nothing, you will hardly even get a new livery for that," said Barry Doe, a leading transport con-



Hurel: jobs warning

sultant. "These trains are among the most shabby and demoralised left in the country and the thought of having to use them for the next seven years is a pretty grim one."

The franchise provides services from London's Victoria, Charing Cross and London Bridge stations to south west London, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, including the resorts of Hastings, Eastbourne, Brighton, Worthing and Bognor Regis.

The failure by Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, to secure new rolling stock for the line is being seen as a setback for rail privatisation, which the Government has pledged would lead to orders for modern trains.

Mr Salmon, who announced on Wednesday that he is to leave the job in October, said: "The rolling stock is fit for the life of this franchise and replacing it would not be economic. The

Health and Safety Executive is content with this." Roger Ford, editor of *Rail Privatisation News*, said: "This is just another bog standard deal that is no more than a contract to run services on behalf of the taxpayer."

Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said: "This award will do nothing to reassure passengers of the safety and reliability of services on these lines, which have rolling stock dating back to the 1960s. This will mean more misery for travellers."

The report into the Clapham disaster recommended that all slam door trains should be replaced by 1997 and last year's Holden report into the Cowden accident, in which five people

died, said that the chance of surviving a major crash in a Mark 1 train was "very low".

The report estimated the cost of strengthening the trains to match the level of protection of modern carriages at £300,000 each.

Mr Hurel also announced that the existing British Rail timetable will be safeguarded and that there would be off peak and Sunday services for South London and a new express service between London and Brighton.

In its first year, the new company will receive a government subsidy of £85.3 million - compared to the original British Rail claim for a £106.28 million subsidy. The franchise is the sixth to pass into private hands.

New duke
not man
for all
seasons

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE cream of Scotland's aristocracy, dressed in their clan tartan, sat beside tweed-suited gillies, gamekeepers and factors yesterday in the Gothic cathedral of Dunkeld to honour the memory of the 10th Duke of Atholl, George Iain Murray.

Only one man looked out of place. John Murray, a semi-retired surveyor from a South African village, who shivered in a tropical-weight blue suit and light coat. The 11th duke had come with his wife, Peggy, and eldest son, Bruce, now Marquess of Tullibardine, to pay respects at his predecessor's memorial service. It was the first time the new duke had visited the area since the death of his distant cousin. But it was not the grove of proud Douglas firs overlooking the 15th-century cathedral that made the greatest impression on him, nor the silvery waters of the Tay. It was the weather.

Born and bred in South Africa, the 67-year-old duke looked blue with cold in the biting April wind. Apologising for saying little to waiting journalists, he ex-



The 11th duke, centre, outside the cathedral yesterday with his son Bruce, behind

plained: "I am sorry; my mind doesn't function in sub-zero temperatures."

He did, however, reaffirm that the future of the 85-strong Atholl Highlanders, the only private army in Europe and the pride of the late duke, was secure. "It is obvious that the army should be kept." The force may visit his country.

The 10th duke was known for his kindness but also his painful shyness. The 11th duke appears to have inherited the condition. He is a down-to-earth man who has no plans to use his title and for whom the family motto

Tout Prest (Quite Ready) seems inappropriate.

He has been staying at Blair Castle since Wednesday and will spend the next week visiting relatives. The castle and the 70,000-acre estate have been placed in trust and do not go with the title, although the late duke's will has yet to be made public.

Five hundred of his family and friends filled the cathedral yesterday and pipers played laments that echoed through the streets of the tiny Perthshire town. The Very Rev Professor Sir Robin Barbour, who fought with the

9th duke in the last war, conducted the service. The Earl of Wemyss and March, who took over from the late duke as president of the National Trust for Scotland, praised his stewardship of the private army. "He found it in a state of eclipse and, by the light of his personality, it shines again. He was a first-class steward of a wonderful part of Scotland."

Many of the duke's charitable and sporting interests attended, including the RNLI and Red Deer Commission.

Memorial service, page 22

Burger boss goes into higher orbit

By JOANNA BALE

The owner of the Planet Hollywood burger restaurants has seen his personal wealth rise from £80 million to £300 million in a year, making him Britain's fastest-rising entrepreneur in the *Sunday Times* survey *Britain's Richest 500*.

The increase has taken Robert Earl from 143rd place to the 37th. The top ten in the survey, all ranked as billionaires for the first time in five years.

The worldwide chain of Planet Hollywood have become money-spinners with the help of actors Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis, who all have a stake. Mr Earl, 44, a catering graduate of Surrey University, is

about to float the company on the American Stock Exchange and claims his wealth is actually nearer £500 million.

Another spectacular success is Joseph Lewis, a currency and art dealer living in the Bahamas, who has risen from 52nd place to joint 8th with £1,000 million. Britain's wealthiest man remains the food packaging magnate Hans Rausing who has a wealth of £2,880 million. Mr Rausing, born in Sweden, shared the honour last year with his brother Gad, who co-owns the successful drinks container company TetraPak. As Gad has moved to Switzerland, and therefore no longer lives and works in Britain, this excludes him from the British survey.

Only 38 women feature in the list, led by

the Queen at joint 26th place with a reported £450 million. The survey, published tomorrow, is the eighth annual analysis of rises and falls. The top ten are: 1. Hans Rausing, food packaging, £2,880m; 2. David Sainsbury and family, retailing, £2,520m; 3. Garfield Weston and family, food production, £2,200m; 4. The Duke of Westminster, landowner, £1,650m; 5. Sir John and Sir Adrian Swire, shipping and aviation, £1,300m; 6. Sir James Goldsmith, finance and politics, £1,200m; 7. John and Peter Moores, stores, mail order and football pools, £1,200m; 8. Gopi and Sri Hinduja, trading and finance, £1,000m; Joseph Lewis, finance, £1,000m; Viscount Rothermere, newspapers, £1,000m.

Police in
Dublin
question
bombing
suspect

By NICHOLAS WATT
AND STEWART TENDLER

DETECTIVES in the Irish Republic were last night questioning a man suspected of involvement in the IRA's bombing campaign in Britain.

The man, aged 26, was detained in a dawn raid on a house in Finglas, a working-class suburb in north Dublin. He was arrested on Thursday under the Irish Republic's anti-terrorism legislation which allows him to be held without charge until later today.

His arrest followed a lengthy surveillance operation by Irish police after the bombing of South Quay in London's Docklands, the attack that marked the end of the IRA's ceasefire. Sources in the Metropolitan Police confirmed their interest in the suspect.

The man, who comes from a staunchly Republican family, is someone Scotland Yard has wanted to question for some time in connection with earlier bomb attacks.

They include "bicycle bombings" in 1994 in Brighton and Bognor Regis in which a terrorist unit planted bombs made up of Semtex explosives hidden in bicycle saddle bags. Shops were damaged in one of the strikes but there were no casualties.

He is understood to have remained under surveillance in Britain and the Irish Republic for the duration of the ceasefire.

It was expected that he would appear in court late last night to face a warrant for his extradition to Britain. The proceedings open at the District Court in Dublin at which the warrants are presented and a judge sets a date for a full hearing at the court.

If the District Court agrees to the warrant for extradition, the suspect can appeal to the High Court and then finally the Supreme Court.

Boy of 13
on murder
charge

A 13-year-old boy has been charged with the murder of Gawen Whalley, 22, a student of Kingston, Dorset, who was killed ten days ago in Sydney while on a working holiday. The juvenile will make his first appearance in a local children's court as Mr Whalley's body is being flown home today, accompanied by his parents, Margaret and Roger Kellow. Mr Whalley was stabbed seven times as he walked home from his part-time factory job.

Girls arrested

Three teenage girls were arrested yesterday in connection with the death of John Burge, 61, who suffered a heart attack as he tried to help his 17-year-old daughter Helen, who was being attacked by a gang in Oxford. The girls, two aged 16 and one 17 and all from Oxford, were released on bail after being questioned about suspected public order offences.

Payout to golfer

Philomena Vaughan, the golfer who punched an alleged gruper at a golf club trophy evening, won £8,947 compensation from the club. Mrs Vaughan, 42, was sacked as manager of Dewstow Golf Club at Caerwent, Gwent, after refusing to apologise to John Price, the man she hit. An industrial tribunal in Cardiff ruled that Mrs Vaughan was unfairly dismissed.

HIV all-clear

More than 1,100 people in Scotland who had to be retested for the AIDS virus were told yesterday that their original results had been accurate. They were among 26,000 to 30,000 people in Britain who had to be retested after equipment used to determine whether they had HIV was found to be faulty. In England and Wales retesting is still being carried out.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

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buyer's guide

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الجمعة 13 أبريل 1996

Edwardian documentary keeps it in the family

■ The Duke and Duchess of Windsor are the subjects of a new television documentary. Alan Hamilton reports

AN ENDURING belief that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has harboured a lifelong grudge against the Duchess of Windsor for plotting King George VI unwillingly to the throne, precipitating his untimely death, was challenged yesterday by her grandson, Prince Edward.

Queen Elizabeth, like other members of the Royal Family and household, had been put in an impossible position by her brother-in-law's decision to marry a divorcee, and was never able to acknowledge publicly the existence of the former Wallis Simpson in any way, the Prince said.

The Prince was attending the preview of a two-part documentary on the Windsors that he has written and presented, to be screened later this month. He answered questions on why the programmes almost entirely ignored the riddle of the 1936 abdication, which still intrigues historians: did the then Duchess of York, the future Queen Elizabeth, hate the upstart American?

Prince Edward said: "There are all sorts of stories involving the Queen Mother which I believe are factually inaccurate. She, like every other lady in the household at the time, was put in an utterly impossible position by Edward's decision."

"They were never going to be able publicly to acknowledge her in any way. The inevitable gulf that occurred

has been interpreted by people to say it was a deep-seated and personal matter which, from all that I have discovered, just isn't the case."

The Prince added: "None of the Royal Family was interviewed for these programmes; I did not feel it necessary to put them through that."

In the documentaries, Prince Edward defends his great-uncle against the charges of some historians that he was a Nazi sympathiser or even collaborator. In the first programme he says: "The Duke may have been awkward, selfish and intransigent but there is no evidence

that he would ever betray his country." He said he had found no evidence to support the theory that there had been an official cover-up over the Duke's supposed links with Nazi Germany.

The Prince, having had privileged access to George VI's private diaries, nevertheless makes it clear that the Duke's meeting with Hitler in 1937 caused dismay in London. King and government were furious that the Duke had undertaken the mission, albeit in the hope of persuading Hitler against war, without giving warning in order that he might have been better briefed and ad-

vised. But the Prince asserts that, for all his faults, the Duke of Windsor was utterly loyal and merely laughed when a Spanish emissary acting for the Nazi German regime suggested that Hitler would install him as puppet king of a conquered Britain, with a crown on his head and a swastika on his car.

The documentary details farcical attempts by German and Spanish agents to keep the Duke in Spain during the early years of the war, when he wanted to sail for the Bahamas to take up his post as governor.

Ramon Serrano Suner, Spanish Interior Minister in 1940-42, tells the Prince in the series: "Franco wanted to keep him here because we thought he would be an English king more favourably disposed to Spain. On the other hand Hitler thought he could manipulate him so he could instigate a revolution in England."

The Duke's obsession with minutiae played into the hands of the enemy agents. Unwilling to leave for the Bahamas without his best bed linen, he sent a maid to occupied France to retrieve the sheets from their Paris house. The maid was captured by German agents and held along with the pillowcases in the hope that the Windsors would miss their boat. They caught it.

□ *Edward On Edward* will be shown on ITV at 10.45pm on April 23 and 30.



Prince Edward and the Gerald Brochehurst portrait of Duchess of Windsor

THE true Edward's the Duke of veteran televis. Desmond Wilcox, ilton writes).

Three years ago Wilcox given a tour of the Windsor home in Paris, restored by present owner, Mohammed Fayed. Determined to make a film on the Windsors in exile, Wilcox approached Prince Edward with the suggestion that he might like to write and narrate the programme. The Prince immediately agreed.

"What has raised the status of this particular programme is that it is an important story from recent history, being shown on the sixtieth anniversary of the abdication," Prince Edward said yesterday. The programme's real origins will do little to dispel criticism that Ardent Productions has ridden unashamedly on the back of its royal connections, despite the Prince's declarations when the television company was set up in 1993 that it would stand on its own two feet. He is joint managing director with Eben Foggett, a former BBC TV drama executive. His next major project is a documentary about Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Other programmes have included an edition of the motoring programme *Top Gear* for the BBC and *Annie's Bar*, the poorly received Channel 4 comedy.

Son explains why he ended patient's pain

By Bill Frost

AN ELDERLY cancer victim died after her son gave her a massive dose of medical heroin "to ease her agony". Last night the man called for new laws to allow mercy killing as police investigated the death.

Alice Rowbottom, aged 80, was unable to eat, drink, move or speak without crying when her family saw her last Wednesday at North Manchester General Hospital. Her son Derek said: "I knew my mum would not leave me like that if I was in agony."

His mother as on a drip of diamorphine (pharmaceutical heroin) to counter the pain "so I kept pressing the button on the pump to administer more intravenous drugs. I just wanted to keep her out of pain and let her pass away peacefully. I don't think she even knew who I was at the end."

Mr Rowbottom, 44, from Ashton-under-Lyne, said: "The diamorphine was being pumped into her stomach through a box. I had seen another patient in a corridor with one of these boxes and he showed me the pump booster button. When no one was looking I pressed the button on my mum's box so the drug would go in as quickly as possible. I asked the nurse for more because she was still in pain, then I emptied the new supply as quickly as I could."

The nurse saw me doing it then asked me to stop, but I wouldn't. She called the sec-

urity men and the police and I didn't administer any more. My mum had taken all the diamorphine I could give her and she was completely rested, in no more pain."

The next day Mr Rowbottom was contacted by the hospital and told his mother's condition had deteriorated. She was dead by the time he arrived at her bedside.

"The following day the police came to see me and said they understood there was a high level of diamorphine in my mother's blood and they wanted to ask me about it. I told them, 'Look I know what I've done and I would do it again'. I know she would have done the same for me if I had been in her situation. I sat down with my mum and I said I'm sorry. I just wanted to help her. There was nothing else I could do."

"If what I have done helps change the law or helps anyone else, then that is good. I want the law changed to make things easier for patients and relatives of patients to end their suffering."

Mr Rowbottom's wife Jennifer said: "The law is crazy. I would want Derek to do the same thing for me in that situation."

A police spokesman said that Mrs Rowbottom's death had been reported to the coroner, who had asked for an investigation. No arrests had been made.



Alice Rowbottom and her son Derek: police called

Man who 'dispensed' cannabis goes free

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who gave away cannabis to chronically sick people in a Scottish fishing port escaped a jail sentence when the judge learnt of his care for his sick wife, Martinus Van der Lee, 50, who works with the disabled, was sentenced to three years' probation yesterday after he admitted supplying and possessing the drug.

Van der Lee started giving cannabis to his wife, Kathleen, who was seriously injured in a car accident five years ago, to ease her suffering. The crash had left her with a mental age of 8, violent shakes, a speech impediment and severe mood swings. Van der Lee claimed his wife's shaking stopped and the mood swings eased.

The former merchant navy chef was open about what he was doing and word spread in Peterhead, Grampian. He started giving the drug free to the sick and dying. It was used to alleviate cancer, multiple sclerosis and glaucoma.

His activities came to a halt when police caught him with 1.5kg of cannabis in his car. In total, he had £10,000 worth of the drug in his possession.

Yesterday in the High Court in Inverness, Van der Lee admitted illegal possession and being concerned in the supply of several kilos of cannabis throughout the Highlands and Islands.

The judge, Lord Johnston, told him: "This is a very difficult case. I can understand your motive and I follow what you were trying to do but I cannot condone it. Normally I would send you to prison but in these very special circumstances, and taking your wife into account, I believe what you did was more stupid than wicked."

Later, Van der Lee said he would continue rolling cigarettes for his wife but they would be made from tobacco. "This is the end of my involvement in drugs. I have been given the opportunity to stay with Kathleen and I won't let the judge down."

Payout to vandal overturned

By Tim Jones

A BUSINESSMAN who defended his country home against attack by stone-throwing youths from a nearby council estate had his conviction for common assault and criminal damage overturned yesterday.

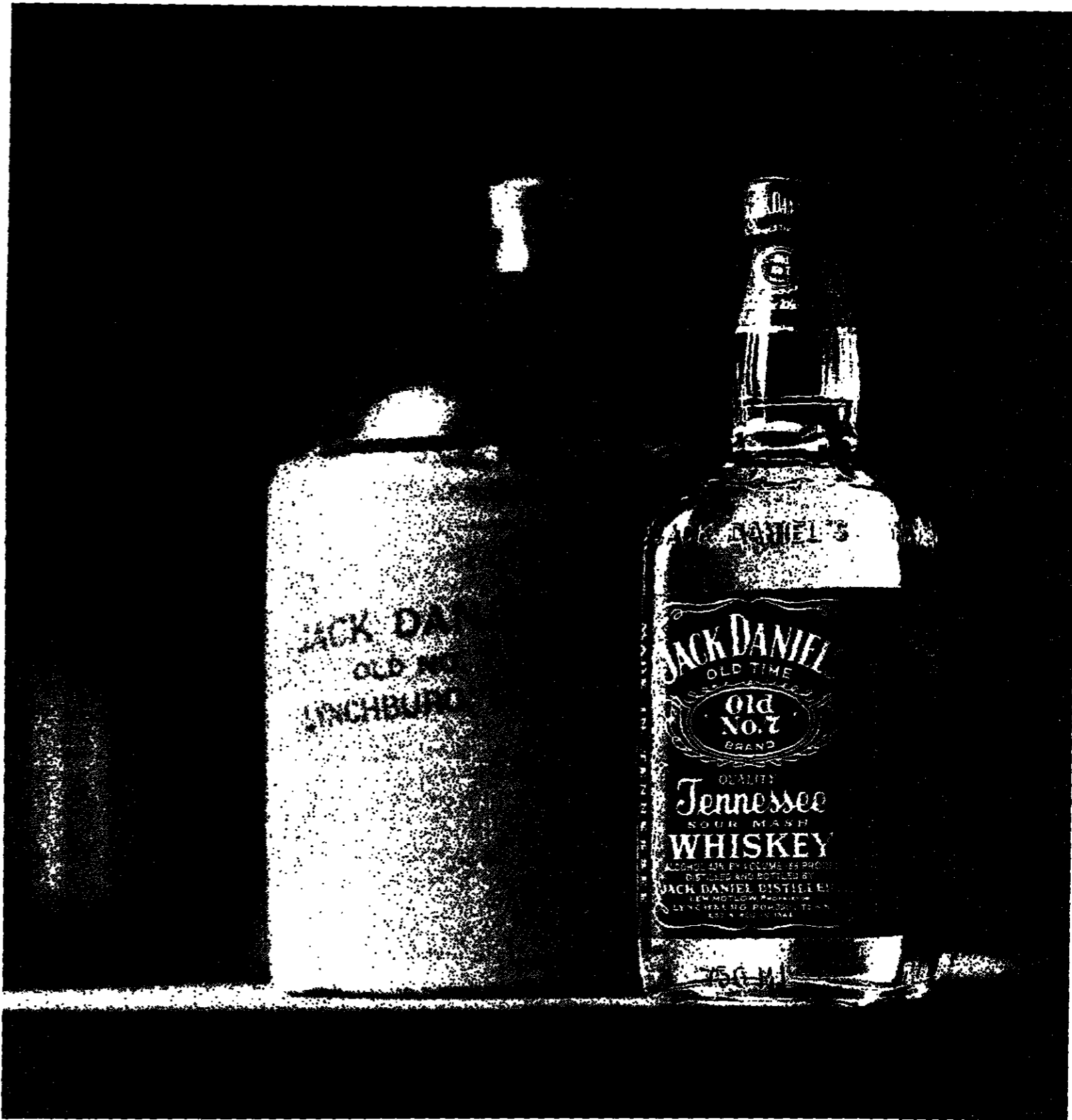
David Verney, 54, jumped into his Range Rover and drove out of his moated home to chase two youths after he heard the sound of breaking glass in his greenhouse, Gloucester Crown Court was told. Mr Verney, a property developer from Uckington, near Cheltenham, threatened

to report the boys to the police but instead found himself in front of Colford magistrates in January. They gave him an absolute discharge, but ordered him to pay costs of £200 and £40 compensation to one of the boys to replace a ripped football shirt.

Mr Verney, whose wife Barbara is a magistrate at Cheltenham, won his appeal against conviction when Michael de Navarro, QC, the Recorder, stopped the case. He said that Wayne O'Shea, 14, the alleged victim, and another boy, aged 13, had given conflicting evidence on which no court could convict.

He awarded Mr Verney costs for the magistrates' court and appeal hearings.

The court was told that Mr Verney, a former army and Gloucester county rugby player, caught up with the boys, grabbed one by his shirt, marched him across to another group and demanded to know the names of the others. A police officer to whom the youths complained said that she went to Mr Verney's home but could find no damage to his greenhouse. She described his attitude as obnoxious. Later, another officer found two broken panes and some stones.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY





The Ostrich Monarch

She has ruled for as long as most of us can remember, yet we know her scarcely at all. As the queen approaches 70, the award-winning writer William Shawcross investigates the enigma at the heart of Britain

News Review — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Schools may reject pupils if parents oppose discipline

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS are to be allowed to turn down pupils whose parents refuse to accept policies on discipline, Gillian Shephard said yesterday.

The Education and Employment Secretary is also planning legislation in the autumn to give schools the same powers as the police to detain children. This would end the right of parents to stop schools from using detention beyond school hours as a punishment for unruly children.

Mrs Shephard, in a speech to the annual conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers in Glasgow, promised laws to force parents to take more responsibility for the behaviour of their children. There would be sharper penalties for the parents of persistent truants, and those whose children have been expelled twice could lose their right to choose a school.

She refused to say what the penalties for parents of truants

might be, but government advisers have called recently for parents to be fined or lose state benefits if they cannot teach their children to behave.

"Some of these measures will be possible through new guidance," she said. "In other areas legislation will be necessary and we will provide it."

The Labour Party said last week that it would allow schools to suspend pupils for a term. In an apparent attempt to match this pledge, Mrs Shephard indicated that she would allow schools to exclude pupils for 45 days at a time instead of the current maximum of 15 days a term.

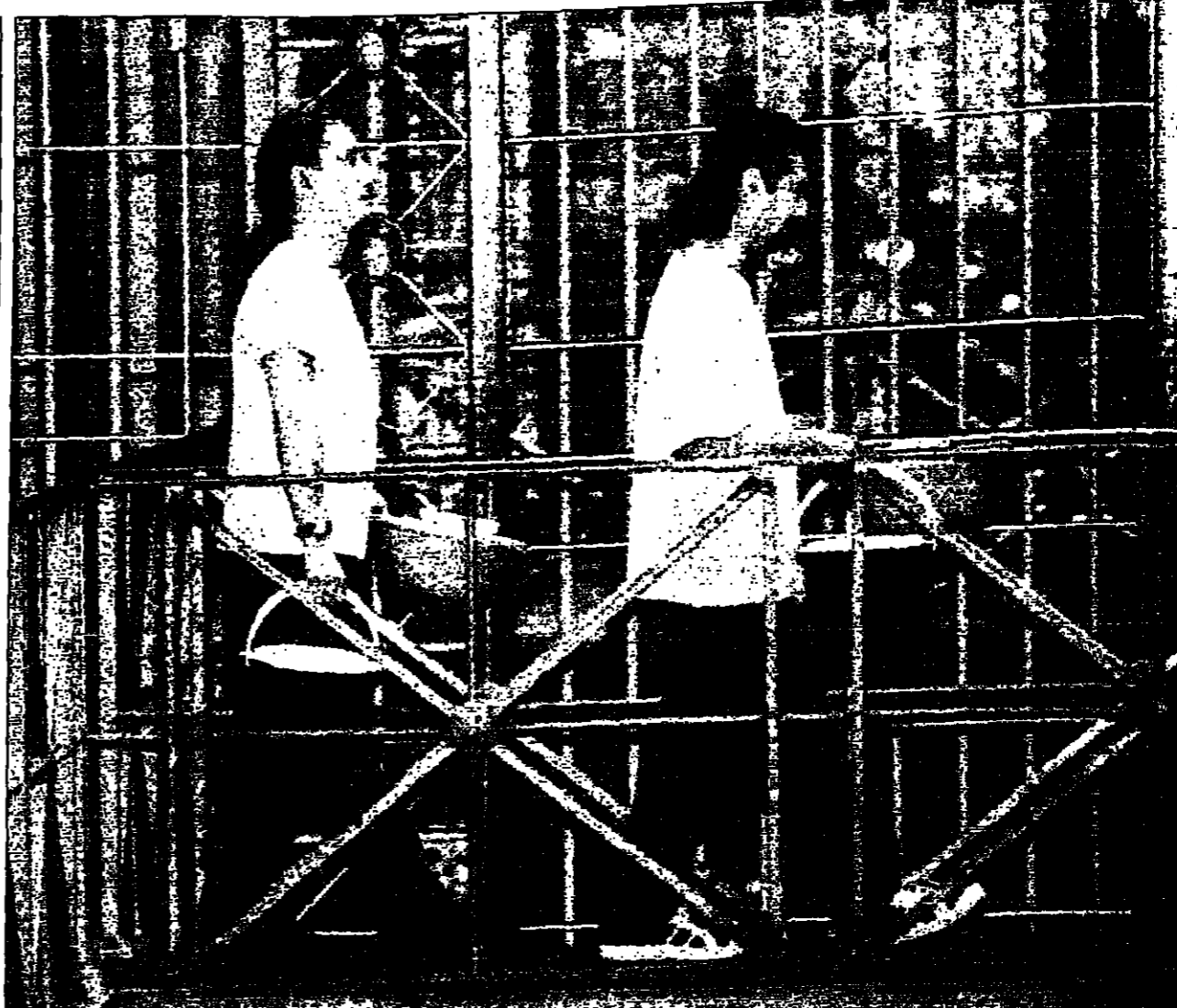
She said: "Without an orderly atmosphere in the classroom, effective teaching and learning cannot take place. Teachers should not have to put up with violent pupils who disrupt lessons."

Later she said: "We need to look at linking parents' wishes with requirements for good, acceptable behaviour. The

majority of parents are supportive to schools and their children, but where they are not there needs to be a reminder of their responsibilities."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, welcomed the recent attention to school discipline from Labour and the Conservatives but said that tougher measures were needed years ago. Last year a survey found that as many as 15,000 youngsters were being expelled every year.

The union favours more pupil referral units, or "sin-bins", to rid classrooms of unruly children. "Everyone asserts the child's right to an education, but I would challenge that," Mr de Gruchy said. "If they break their contract with a school they should forfeit that right. No one wants to send these children into limbo, but I do not want my members and the majority of children to remain in hell because of disruptive pupils."



Inmates at Armley prison in Leeds slopping out for the last time. One said: "We've got a lot more dignity now"

Inmates slop out for the last time

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

INMATES at Armley jail ended a prison ritual yesterday when they slopped out for the last time.

Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, was in the Leeds jail to mark the completion of a £60 million programme to install sanitation in cells in 135 jails in England and Wales.

The drive to end slopping out, a target of penal reformers, was only six weeks short of a deadline recommended by Lord Woolf in 1991. Until he recommended speedy action to end the practice, the Home Office had not expected slopping out to end in jails until the next century.

Glenn, an Armley inmate, said integral sanitation had improved morale for everyone. He added: "Before, you had to make sure you had been to the toilet before banging up time because after that you had to use the bucket and slop out with everyone else the

next morning. Now we've got our own toilet and sink. It's much cleaner and we've got a lot more dignity."

Since 1991 more than 20,000 toilets and washbasins have been installed in 96 institutions. Some cells at Armley have both. In other parts of the jail three cells have been turned into two with a bathroom in the centre.

Miss Widdecombe said the prison service had "reached a milestone in history". She added: "One of the prisoners just said slopping out is prehistoric and he is quite right."

Ironically Victorian prisons had cell sanitation but much of it was ripped out this century to provide more space for prisoners. Stephen Shaw, of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "They missed their target by six weeks but this is still a remarkable achievement."

Victim's pain, page 8

From April you must get into this routine

Jump to it, the first Self Assessment tax year starts on 6th April 1996. From then on, if you usually receive a tax return form, you'll need to make a record of your income and expenses.

What records do you need to keep?

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How to avoid penalties

There will be a clear timetable setting out what you have to do by when. Keeping to the right dates for sending back your tax return and making payments will mean you avoid interest and penalties.

Read the leaflet in your next tax return

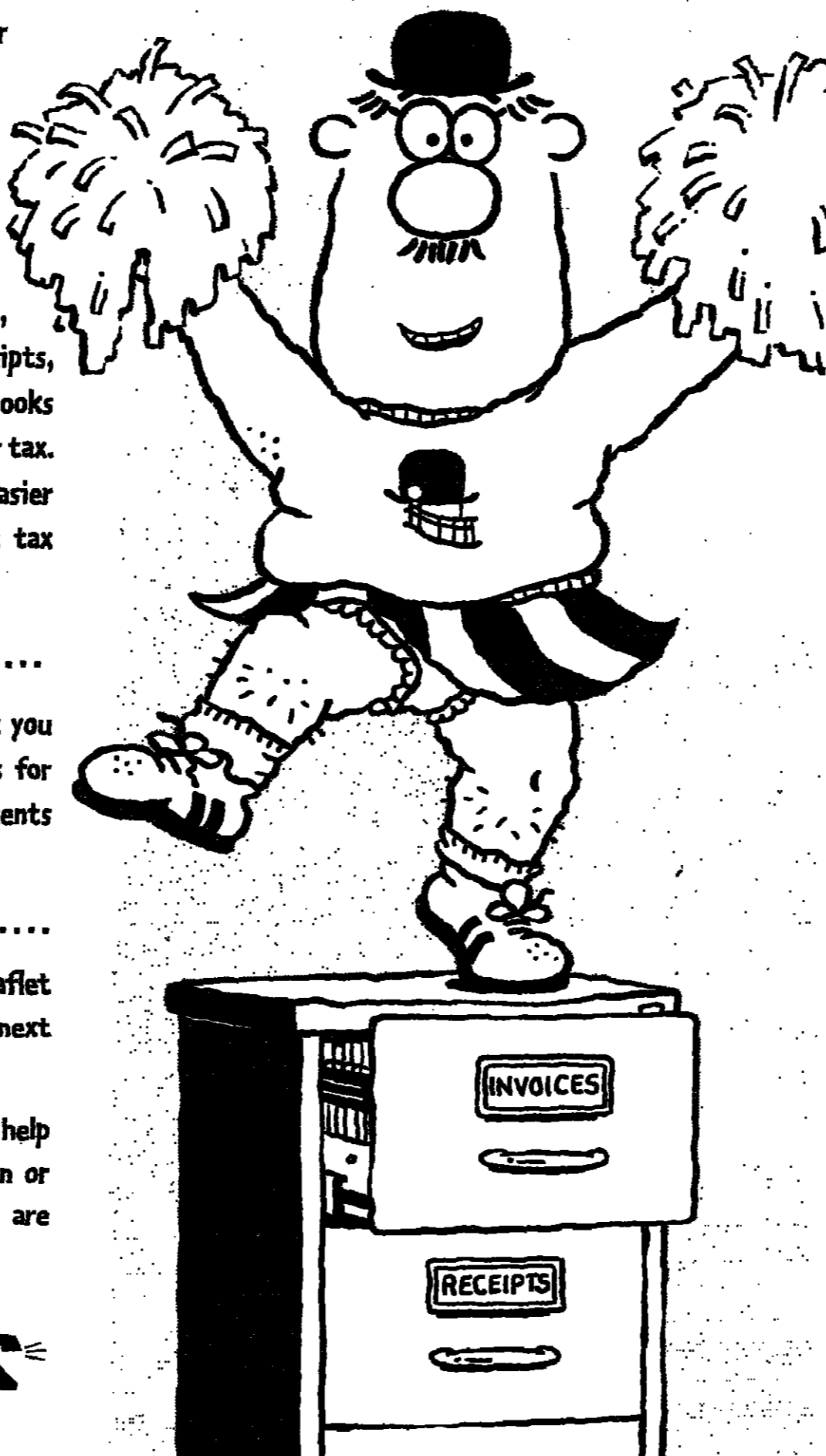
To find out more, look out for the special leaflet on Self Assessment we've included with your next tax return.

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Overhaul of mental care urged by charity

By ADRIAN LEE

THE mental health charity SANE yesterday called for an overhaul of community care legislation after a series of crimes involving former patients. The Mental Health Act needed updating to protect patients and the public, Marjorie Wallace, the charity's chief executive, said.

Far too many mistakes were being made under the current laws, introduced 13 years ago, Ms Wallace said. SANE is seeking new criteria on the discharge of mentally ill patients, and more involvement in the process for their families. The group also wants consideration given to the feelings of victims.

Ms Wallace said: "Because of all the headline cases involving a minority of violent patients, everyone who is mentally ill is finding it harder to be accepted into the community."

SANE, which handles 1,000 telephone calls a week from people seeking help, is to extend its support service and employ a lawyer on cases. It will write to every MP to seek support for its campaign.

Ms Wallace said that in the past year there had been 24 mishandled cases that had resulted in inquiries.

Lawyers told to cut down on sentences

By PETER FOSTER

THE legal profession, master of the sub-clause and the 60-word sentence, was told to get to the point yesterday by the Plain English Campaign. It condemned words such as "aforementioned" and "hereinafter" as old-fashioned and cumbersome.

Christie Maher, the campaign's director, said: "Lawyers are frightened to say what they mean. People need to be able to understand what has been written on their behalf. It's nonsense to say that everything has to be written in fancy English."

The campaign has produced a book, *Language on Trial*, to help lawyers to overcome the urge to write jargon. "With respect to" shrinks to "about", "for the purpose of" becomes "to" and "at this point in time" is "now".

Richard Thomas, director of public policy at the international law firm Clifford Chance, said that lawyers were no longer quite the windbags they once were. However, he added: "Too many lawyers write to impress others inside the profession. Good legal writing should not look as if it is written by a lawyer at all."

Steady on, take a drink

By NICK NUTTALL

IT MAY not be news to some darts and snooker players, but scientists have found that alcohol helps to steady the hand.

Researchers from Birmingham and Edinburgh universities suggest that up to four units of alcohol is the magic amount for keeping hand tremors under control — although "next morning someone might shake more than before".

The findings, disclosed at the Edinburgh Science Festival, suggested that as an alternative, teetotalers could

put their hands under running water from the cold tap. This had improved the aim of Olympic pistol shooters, and helped to improve life for people suffering from diseases such as Parkinson's.

The study measured the hand tremors of thousands of people. In religious groups, Church of Scotland ministers were found to suffer more than nuns or Muslims.

Medical students and general practitioners emerged as the slice of the population with the shakiest hands. Journalists and eye surgeons, thankfully, had low tremor scores.

John Prescott claims to be upwardly mobile. Eight social commentators measure his progress

Labouring the point: just what is a class act?

John Prescott, the no-nonsense voice of the Labour Party, yesterday announced his defection to the middle classes. In an unguarded moment he told Radio 4's Today programme: "I can tell you, I'm pretty middle class." Yesterday *The Times*

endeavoured to find out just where Mr Prescott, former merchant navy steward, stood on the social scale. We asked academics, social commentators and advertising gurus to define class differences and assess Mr Prescott's position.

BEING working class is no longer a badge of honour in Labour Party politics, according to Ben Pinnett, Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College and biographer of Harold Wilson. "Once Labour MPs could not resist mentioning their grandparents' working-class roots. But the move away from that is symptomatic of the move towards American-style politics. In America the middle-class is the equivalent of our working class."

Professor A.H. Halsey, author of *Social Class and Educational Opportunity*, said: "Of course John Prescott is middle class. You have to

define class by people's present position. But that doesn't mean that he can forget that his origins lie somewhere else. The same applies to about a third of the population. We need a more subtle definition of class which recognises that duality."

One Labour MP, at least, is still proud to be working class. Ken Purchase, a former tool-maker and now MP for Wolverhampton North East, said: "Maybe not by income, but by attitude I am definitely working class."

Dame Barbara Cartland was once asked in a radio interview if she thought class

barriers were breaking down. "Of course they are, my dear," she replied. "Otherwise I wouldn't be talking to you." Yesterday she said: "Nobody cares about class any more. You can be anything you like these days. I think it is dreadful because people have such appalling manners."

"As far as I am concerned someone of good class is someone who keeps their word, is charming and behaves like a gentleman. But England is so rude. We have lost the majesty of smartness, people are so scruffy and even the Royal Family are not as royal as they might be."

She said she still believed herself "very much upper class". Her household addresses her with her title.

Her fellow novelist, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, said: "I have always thought John Prescott to be rather upper class, with his Jaguars, double-breasted suits and holidays in Barbados. I think it is wonderful he has said this. Next thing he will announce he is voting Conservative."

Tony Parsons, presenter of the BBC2 programme *Parsons On Class*, said: "It just proves that there is no longer any shame in admitting you are middle class. If John Prescott claimed to be working class it wouldn't make him a champi-

on of the people, it would make him a hypocrite.

"He has two homes and earns nearly £40,000 a year: he is middle class. The class you were born into isn't necessarily where you stay. The middle class covers such a broad spectrum now, from Mr Patel at the corner shop to a barrister."

Michael Young, a sociologist and director of the Institute of Community Studies, said: "Mr Prescott would not be regarded by many as pukka middle class because he was born into a working-class family, but under tradi-

tional guidelines, since he was not a manual worker, he could call himself middle class.

"Forty years ago Labour MPs would have been stressing their working classness. Now things have moved the other way and they are more inclined to call themselves middle class."

"Class was always something that was in people's minds. It is a subjective notion and if someone says they are working or middle class who is going to say otherwise?"

Generally the working and middle classes were defined by manual and non-manual

jobs, but in the 1950s it was the working classes who saw themselves as the real workers, the bedrock of the country. They were proud of it and actually saw themselves as superior to non-manual workers.

"Over the past few decades there has been a decline in the number of manual jobs and an increase in jobs in the service industry which has eroded boundaries and made the picture more confused. People might be on very low incomes — such as parsons — but they would still categorise themselves as middle class, so

we cannot use pay as a yardstick. It comes down to what people think they are."

Ivor Spencer, who runs a school for butlers, said: "The class system certainly exists and we will never have a classless society in Britain. How ever much money you have there are still clubs you can't get into. There is a them-and-us situation."

He said that he knew people, with "new money", who employed a butler to give the appearance of belonging to a higher class. "You can't buy class, it is something you are born into."

Education is the key to social position

By Stephen Farrell

ADVERTISERS, famous for their division of the population into alphabetic and numeric classes, would summarise John Prescott as an aspirer.

"Middle-class is broadly meaningless," said Paul Tivy, group chief executive of the advertising agency Bates Dorland. "The most important determinant of behaviour is educational background rather than disposable income."

"Yes, we would classify him [John Prescott] as middle-class by his purchasing habits, his house and car and the fact that he persisted with his education. But attitudinally I would have thought, before today, he would shudder at the idea of being middle class."

John Prescott epitomises the good old-fashioned Labour Party Socialist in a party more and more overtly middle class under Tony Blair.

Social class definitions:

A Professionals: chartered people; high-ranking service people.
B Those with a large amount of responsibility, such as middle management, lecturers.
C1 All others doing non-manual jobs, such as nurses and police sergeants.
C2 Skilled manual workers who served apprenticeships.
D Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, labourers.
E Those of lowest levels of subsistence, such as pensioners and the unemployed.



Beer bottles to the fore, John and Pauline Prescott enjoying the glitz of a comedy awards presentation evening



The Prescotts' constituency house in Hull

The 11-plus failure who worked his way up decks

JOHN PRESCOTT was the eldest of five children and attended Brinsworth Primary School, Rotherham.

The family lived in rented accommodation until he was 11 when his parents bought their first home, which was in Chester.

After leaving school in 1953 he worked as a trainee chef in hotels for two years, joined the Labour Party in 1956 and went to work on passenger shipping lines scrubbing decks in 1955 before becoming a steward.

When he returned to dry

land he was sponsored by Cheshire County Council to study for a diploma in economics and politics at Ruskin College, Oxford. He went on to Hull University where he gained a BSc in economics. He became an MP in 1970, sponsored by the National Union of Seamen.

The Deputy Labour leader had left school without any qualifications. He went to a secondary modern in Ellesmere Port, having failed the 11-plus.

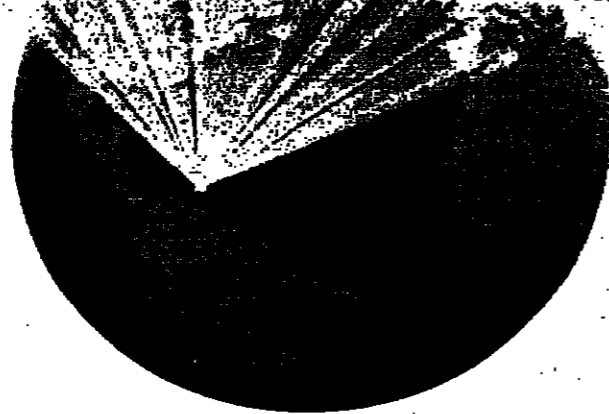
His two sisters and two brothers, who were younger,

all went to grammar school. Their mother Phyllis, who has remarried and is a Labour party member, taught needlework.

Mr Prescott bought his house near the village of Sutton for £28,000 in the early 1970s but it is now valued at around £100,000.

He drives a second-hand Daimler, spends most of his holidays in the Caribbean, with his wife Pauline, a former hairdresser, whom he married in 1961. She is a full-time housewife and MP's wife. They have two sons.

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Psychological Society conference told of first study into long-term effects of accident on children

Suicide and illness haunt survivors of sea disaster

REPORTS BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

CHILDREN who survived a sea disaster in Greece eight years ago are more likely to have considered suicide or suffered mental illness than classmates who remained in Britain, according to one of the largest studies of adolescent disaster survivors.

Of 400 pupils rescued from *SS Jupiter*, a cruise ship that sank in a Greek harbour in 1988, more than two thirds have suffered mental illness and 52 per cent had post-traumatic stress disorder, the British Psychological Society annual conference in Brighton was told yesterday. The schoolwork of survivors suffered and they were three times more likely than their peers to become depressed. One survivor took her life and 9 per cent of her companions have attempted suicide.

The Institute of Psychiatry study shows for the first time the long-term effects of such a disaster on children. The findings emerged in interviews

with survivors, now in their early twenties, and a group of their peers.

Stephanie Boyle, a researcher at the Institute of Psychology, London, said: "A lot of mothers reported 'a child of mine went away and I got back an adult'. The children returned with a feeling that the world was dangerous and serious. They were much more cynical and worldly wise. The loss of innocence is quite notable because they were relatively young."

Survivors told researchers: "I don't really trust anybody any more, I don't believe what people tell me." Dominic O'Ryan, Ms Boyle's colleague, said: "Some no longer plan for the future because they feel the future can be cut short."

The *SS Jupiter* had just set sail from Piraeus harbour with nearly 400 English children aged 14 and 15 on board for a week-long educational cruise. The liner was rammed

amidships by the freighter

DEPRESSION

Adige, rapidly took on water and sank within 40 minutes. Four people died — a pupil and teacher from Birmingham and two Greek seamen. The Medical Research Council is paying £300,000 for three years of research into the long-term effects on survivors.

Although all the children were offered counselling, fewer than a fifth accepted. Of 158 interviewed, 14 per cent had suffered post-traumatic stress disorder with symptoms including flashbacks, panic attacks and avoidance of anything related to the trauma.

Julie Nurrish, a researcher, said results showed a delay of a year or more in the academic studies of those survivors in higher education. "They are not fulfilling their potential."

□ The police misunderstand the rave culture, believing ravers to be young innocent victims rather than willing participants, according to

Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education psychologists who interviewed four police officers and four ravers. The police see others involved with the rave scene as largely consisting of drug dealers and those who organise and otherwise make a profit from ravers.

Ravers see themselves as rational, acting through choice but outside mainstream society, which they perceived as hostile and ignorant of rave. "This is important because, to police raves in an effective and humane manner, the police need to understand the culture they are dealing with," the researchers said.

□ Serial killers usually murder their first victim close to home, psychologists from Liverpool University said. "There is a certain amount of impulse involved in all these crimes, even the most deliberate." More serial criminals have burglary on their records than sexual crimes.

Victim's pain, page 8

Survivors from the *SS Jupiter* leaving a rescue ship

Today's Caveman pays high price for macho style

MALES with high levels of testosterone fare worse at school, often opt for a life of crime and are more likely to have a broken marriage by the age of 40. Psychologists have found that chauvinism, sexism and aggression — Caveman values — are thriving in Britain just as they flourished in primitive societies.

Caveman values are more prominent among delinquents, rapists and men who drink and drive, use alcohol and drugs, have more sex but use fewer condoms and are unsympathetic to women who are victims of sexual aggression.

There are still plenty of New Men, however, who agree that "there is too much emphasis on men being tough", "women do not necessarily go for macho-looking males" and "a romantic dinner with your partner is preferable to drinking with the lads".

New Man is probably a student nurse while Caveman is in a job with the fire brigade and the Army. New Man works in an office, in management, or studies psychology, nursing, sociology or social studies. As men get older, they mellow from Caveman into New Man, possibly as a result of education, mixing with women and realising that, in modern society, Caveman values are antisocial and linked to failure.

Caveman believes that it is necessary to be physically and emotionally tough to achieve manhood, which includes not backing away from physical confrontation, not crying, withstanding pain without complaint, approval of male initiation ceremonies and dis-

MALE VALUES

approval of men who fail to meet these requirements.

Research by the University of Central Lancashire found significant numbers of men approved of statements such as "real men don't give up because of fear," and "men who take part in yoga and ballet deserve to be ridiculed". They also agreed that "wife-swapping is fine as long as both men agree", and "real men don't back away from bar-room confrontations".

John Archer, an evolutionary psychologist from the university, told the conference: "They all reflect the notion that manhood is an acquired, rather than an ascribed, status which must be earned by courageous action." His study involved 600 men aged 17 to 45 from the Preston area of Lancashire.

Cavemen are most prevalent in the Army, among the unemployed, amateur soccer players and manual workers including joiners, labourers and drivers. Caveman values were found in uniformed jobs such as the fire brigade, automobile breakdown services and police, engineering and building and masculine sports including American football, rugby and weight training.

Cavemen show an interest in aggressive sports, enjoy danger, view women as sex objects and believe men should be able to hold their drink. "It can be argued that at the root of all this is the notion of proving to others and ones self that you are hard and tough," Dr Archer said.

Ostracism is feared more than beating

BEING sent to Coventry is worse for children than being physically bullied, according to a study of 200 junior and secondary school pupils aged 8 to 12. Those who were psychologically excluded by their peers felt more depressed, lonely, anxious, dissatisfied and worthless than those who were being beaten. Children and their teachers see physical victimisation as the most harmful form of bullying but it may have fewer long-lasting effects, according to psychologists from Keele University.

Studies have shown that children who were socially excluded by their classmates grow up to be depressed, anxious and shy. Boys thought the worst type of bullying was being shunned

BULLYING

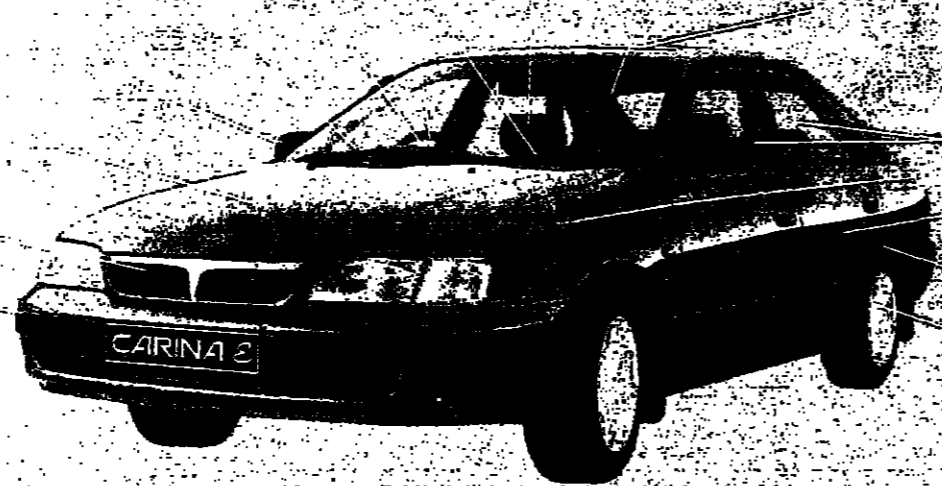
by other children while girls thought it was being physically attacked.

Girl bullies tended to prefer psychological techniques against their victims, including sneaking behind their backs, methods that boys also adopted as they grew out of punching and kicking each other.

A tenth of children in the study in North Staffordshire were being bullied.

□ Domestic violence can be predicted by rainfall, according to a study of three years of records from London. Non-domestic violence increases when the weather is warmer, psychologists from Nottingham University discovered.

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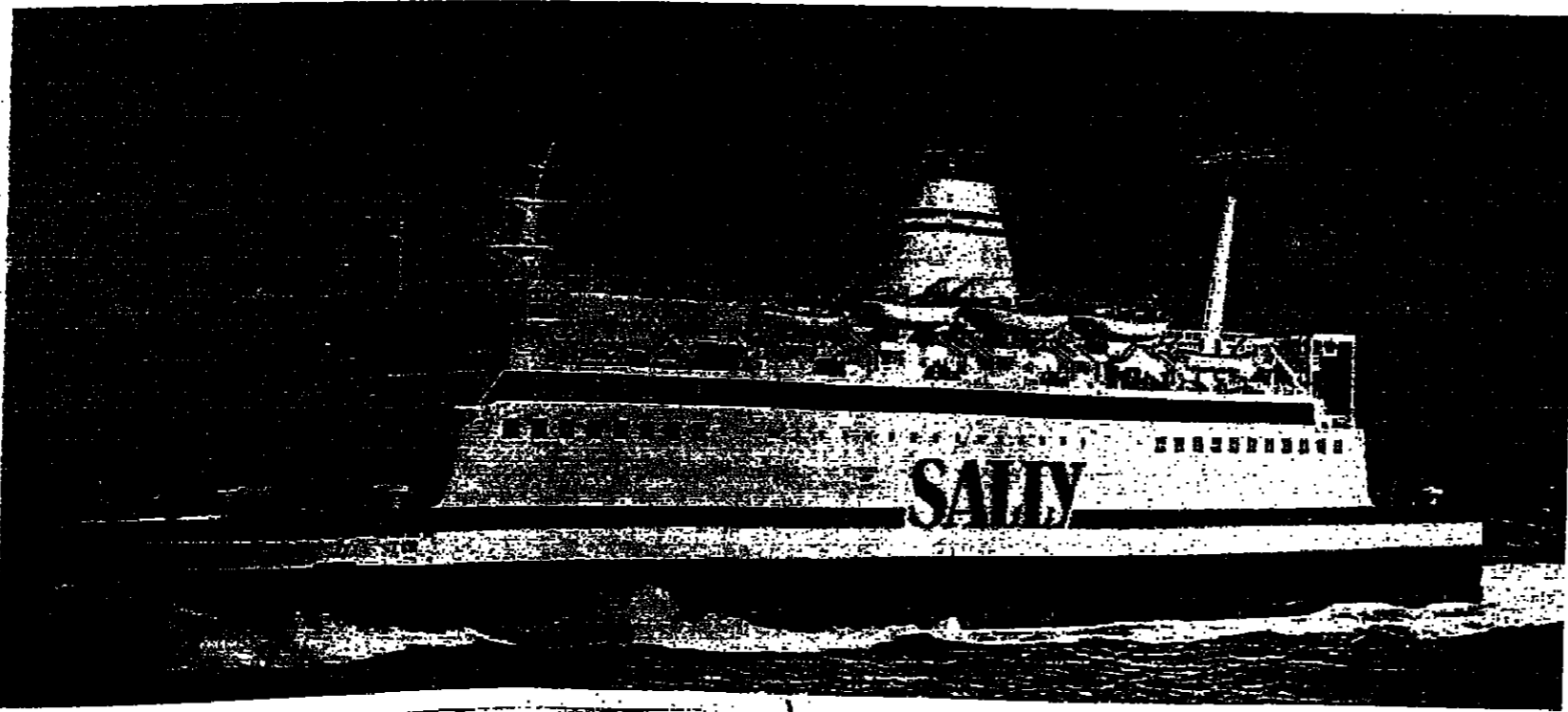
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Howard's proposals criticised

Taylor rejects plan to link jail term and victim's pain

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice launched a fresh attack on Michael Howard's sentencing proposals yesterday, condemning minimum jail terms as an unwelcome American import. Lord Taylor of Gossforth also spoke against the belief that ever-longer prison sentences would be better for the public and victims of crime.

Lord Taylor unveiled his own proposal to reassure victims of crime. He said that the judiciary should consider the victims' interests when imposing sentences on convicted criminals.

He said police should provide prosecutors with a report of the impact of crimes on the lives of the victims. The prosecution would then be able to put the effects of the crime to the judge for consideration before sentences were passed.

However, Lord Taylor said that the suffering of victims could not be allowed to dictate the length of sentences. He added that it was "quite wrong" to believe that longer and longer sentences would somehow be better for the public and would help to curb crime.

He told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "The notion that if you sentence longer and longer and longer it's going to be better and better for the public is quite wrong. The public has an interest in seeing that people are rehabilitated and, of course, they should



Lord Taylor: condemned ever longer sentences

be punished appropriately. "But the idea that because a particular victim has suffered very severe injuries, let us say, there must be absolutely comparable injury or detention on the perpetrator is, I think, inappropriate."

Later, in his first public comments since a government White Paper announced minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers and automatic life sentences for second-time sex and violent offenders, the Lord Chief Justice reopened the argument between the judiciary and the Home Secretary over sentencing.

He described minimum sentences, a key part of the Government's plans to deal with offenders who commit several domestic burglaries and dealers in Class A drugs, as an "importation from the American legal system which we can well do without".

Although his speech to a Victim Support event in his

native Newcastle upon Tyne made no mention of Mr Howard, it was clear that the Home Secretary was his target.

He said that to treat crime solely from the point of view of victims risked looking at the system "through the wrong end of the telescope". Lord Taylor spoke against making the "highly fashionable error" of viewing the criminal justice system primarily as a matter of sentencing.

The typical reaction of most of the population was that sentences were too lenient. Lord Taylor said. A recent survey by the Nuffield Foundation had found that 50 per cent or fewer convicted rapists were sent to prison, when in fact the correct figure was 91 per cent.

With the Government and the judiciary preparing to argue the merits of the White Paper proposals, Lord Taylor conceded that sentencing was a matter of acute public concern. He welcomed debate on the subject as entirely healthy in a mature democracy, while emphasising that it should be an "informed" argument.

Mr Howard's White Paper predicts that 12 jails will have to be built to cope with the minimum 10,000 increase in prison population resulting from his tough new sentences. Lord Taylor told his audience that "in the current stampede to build new prisons", he hoped the continued funding for Victim Support would not be forgotten by the Government.



The card was criticised for encouraging drunkenness

£3,000 for the first card of Christmas

By OLIVER AUGUST

A PROOF copy of the world's first Christmas card fetched £2,990 at auction yesterday. An American collector bought the 1843 card, which sparked an industry worth £300 million last year.

It shows three generations toasting the health of an absent friend, a scene criticised by some Victorians for encouraging drunkenness. The message reads: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

The card was designed by John Calcutt Horsley for the reformer and educationist Sir Henry Cole. Sir Henry had 1,000 copies printed to send to family and friends.

He kept only two proof copies. In 1965 he sent one to his daughter Henrietta and the other, inscribed "The first Christmas card", to Lady Dorothy Nevill, who was related to Horace Walpole.

Lady Dorothy, a distinguished hostess, author, gardener, painter and collector, died in 1913. The card was among a collection of her memorabilia put up for sale yesterday at Christie's by a descendant.

Also sold were two locks of hair from the head and beard of Edward IV. An American buyer paid £517 for the two locks, taken from the king when his tomb in Windsor was opened in 1789.

A unique block of ten Penny Black stamps, ranked among the world's top ten rarities, is being offered for sale at £300,000. The block was issued on May 6, 1840, the date of the introduction of stamps.

It will be the centrepiece of the Stamp '96 Exhibition at Wembley Conference Centre this month. The sale is being handled by Stanley Gibbons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inquiry into fatal slide accident

The death of a three-year-old who caught her neck between the top of a slide and a metal support has prompted an urgent investigation into the slide's safety. Amy Grieson died on Monday, six days after the incident.

Her mother, Kirsty Docking, 24, of Newcastle upon Tyne, called on the Early Learning Centre to stop selling its large slide, saying it was unsafe because the support bars were immovable. Ian Duncan, the firm's chief executive, said he was urgently seeking more information about the incident before deciding whether to withdraw the model.

Polar freeze-out

Pen Hadow, from Dartmoor, abandoned his attempt to walk solo to the North Pole from Ward Hunt Island, Canada, after breaking a ski and a ski-pole six days into his 486-mile trek. An aircraft is to fly him off the ice cap.

Actress banned

Letitia Dean, the former *East-Enders* star, was fined £750 with £50 costs and banned from driving for 30 months by Tower Bridge magistrates after she admitted driving her sports car on March 1 while double the legal alcohol limit.

Attacker foiled

A woman whose car broke down in north London used an aerosol oil spray to fend off a man who attacked her with a knife. He stabbed her arm and hands but fled when she sprayed WD-40 in his face.

Drap of ice

A 60lb block of ice that fell 10,000ft from an aeroplane embedded itself in the ground by the home of Gerald and Jean Redfern in Huddersfield, Derbyshire, under the Manchester airport flightpath.

Beef blocked

The Ministry of Defence is to withdraw ration packs from an Anglo-American exercise in North Carolina because they might contain products that could be construed as breaching the ban on beef exports.

Ferry grounded

The Belgian-owned North Sea car ferry *Prins Filip* ran aground outside the entrance to Ramsgate harbour early yesterday morning, leaving 335 passengers stranded for three hours while the tide rose.

Clean away

Thieves have stolen an outdoor lavatory being exhibited by a Russian at an art show in Limerick. Irish police fear the lavatory, which has been shown around the world, may have been taken for firewood.

Credo

Death holds no sting when we serve our God

Richard Harries

There is a devastating poem by Wilfred Owen, whose first verse reads:

"O Jesus Christ!" one fellow sighed. And knelt, and bowed, tho' not in prayer, and died. And the bullets sang "In Vain". Machine guns chuckled "Vain". Big guns guffawed "In Vain".

The refrain that all is in vain runs through the rest of the poem. It is not only the prayers of soldiers but their cries to their parents and their callings out to their loved ones that are all equally useless. It is a pessimism as bleak as that in the

good that we are able to do will be gathered up and preserved for all eternity.

When these words are read at funeral services, as they so often are, few will be able to share Paul's conviction about the Resurrection of the Dead, which is the theme of this whole chapter. For we know that the body decomposes and becomes part of the whole cycle of nature. We cannot imagine ourselves climbing out of graves like figures in a Stanley Spencer painting.

What we can believe as Christians, however, is that though the darkness may close in on us at death, God's knowledge of us does not end at that point. We remain known in his mind and cherished in his heart.

We have very little idea who we really are. Am I my true self at nine, 10, 30 or 99? Only God knows. And what God knows, our true self, will be reformed or re-dressed in a manner appropriate to eternity. For Christ, is risen and nothing can destroy or take away from our life lived in him.

Much, perhaps most of what we think important about ourselves, will no doubt drop away, being of little significance in the light of the standards of the Kingdom where the last shall be first and the first shall be last.

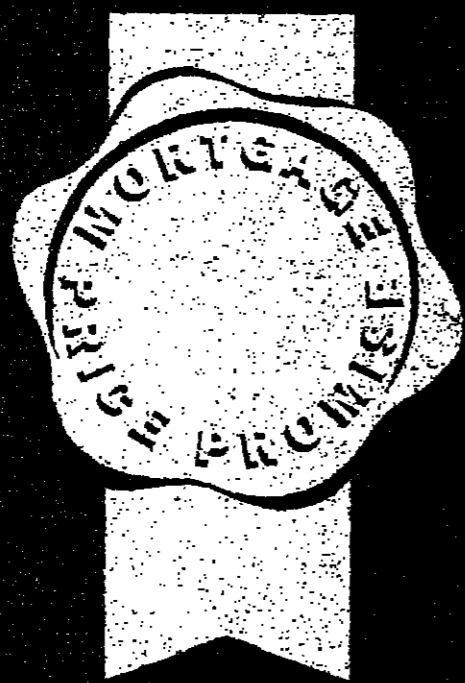
But all that we do "in the Lord", that is work that is in accord with his will of love, all that is in union with Christ through faith and prayer, all this has a future in God. We have absolutely no idea about the conditions in which this hope will be realised, though our best human experiences might give us some guesses, but this hope is fundamental to Christian teaching. We should give ourselves permission to be liberated by it, so we may indeed abound in the work of the Lord.

□ The Right Rev Richard Harries is Bishop of Oxford.

At Your Service
Weekend, page 13

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Prescott challenges Major to have 'the courage to face Labour' and let the nation decide now

Tories stunned by huge margin of by-election defeat

By JAMES LANDALE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Conservatives had braced themselves for defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election, but the margin of defeat — 13,762 votes — has shaken the party.

The victory by Labour's Brian Jenkins, who captured the seat with a swing of 22 per cent, delighted John Prescott, the party's deputy leader, who yesterday challenged John Major to hold an immediate general election.

The Tories were unprepared for the scale of their defeat. During the final days of canvassing, Jimmy James, the Tory candidate, was telling all listeners that victory was within reach; but his party colleagues were briefing journalists to expect a defeat of about 5,000 votes.

By the eve of polling, the defeatist message appeared to have filtered through to Mr James, when he emphasised that the seat held by his party since 1983 should not be considered a Tory heartland but a marginal.

The defeat was especially galling as the Tories had fielded one of the most impressive candidates of recent by-elections and had fought the strongest contest since the last general election. Alan Duncan, the Tory MP for Rutland and Melton, proved a ferociously energetic "minder" to Mr James and was tireless in giving Labour as tough a



Jenkins and grandchild Emmeline Saunders

contest on the ground as they have had in recent clashes with the Conservatives.

But while there was less evidence of the bitterness towards the Government that had dominated other recent by-elections, Labour strategists were confident throughout that Conservative voters were switching in droves to back Tony Blair's party.

Mr Jenkins may not have been the most sparkling campaigner, but he was well known as leader of Tamworth Borough Council and was supported by a cavalcade of national Labour politicians, including Mr Blair, who made three visits to the constituency.

Yesterday his deputy was celebrating with party workers in the Midlands constituency. "If the Tories want to, the best way of testing [their support] is to have a general election," Mr Prescott said.

"Has the Prime Minister got the courage to face us? If he thinks he is going to win a general election, let's have it. It's up to him and we are ready and waiting."

He said the constituency's voters had caught the national mood: "The people of south-east Staffordshire said, 'We don't believe you anymore. We've had enough. We feel betrayed and it's time you were out.'"

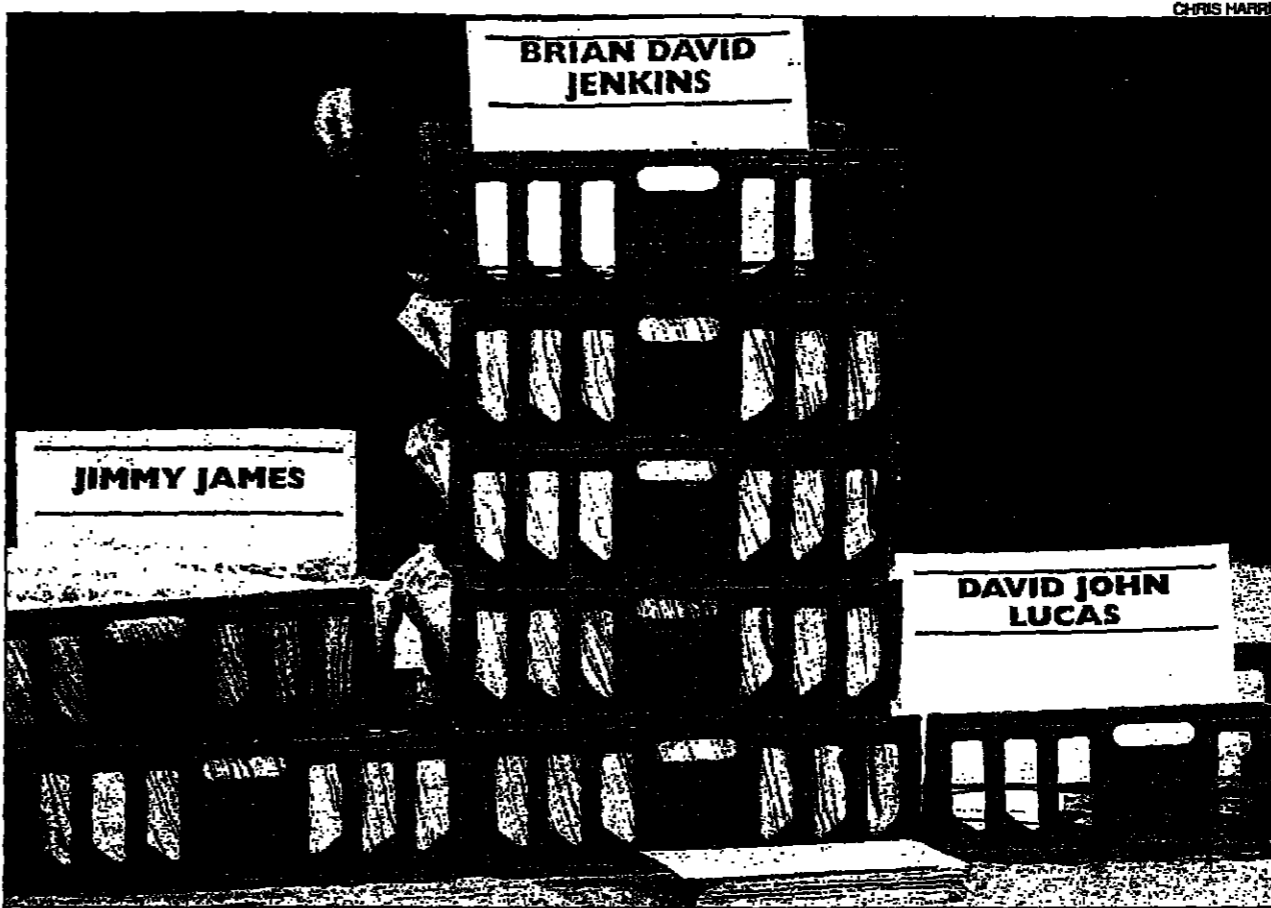
Mr Jenkins said yesterday that the 13,000-plus majority had been beyond even his most optimistic assessment.

"The Tories can use as many excuses and as many reasons as possible," he said. "The simple fact is that they got thumped by the people."

However, Mr James blamed his defeat on several factors: Liberal supporters using a protest vote to back Labour, many Tory voters staying at home, and the "feel-good" factor not yet reaching people's pockets. He also pointed out that the defeat was not as bad as the nearby Dudley West by-election in 1994.

"I thought we had a good chance of winning this seat," he said. "I am obviously disappointed but I respect the decision of the voters. I think the new seat of Tamworth is extremely winnable at the next general election."

John Redwood, page 20
Leading article and
Letters, page 21



The gap between Labour's Brian Jenkins and other candidates was evident at the count from baskets of votes

Making the most of the swing factor

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR's sweeping by-election victory in Staffordshire South East brought the party its second largest post-war swing, 22 per cent. Only Dudley West in 1994 bettered it with a 29 per cent swing away from the losing Conservatives.

Labour claimed yesterday's result was the bigger triumph, which could not be dismissed as a mid-term protest but which pointed towards deeper Tory disaffection. "This is a crippling result for a Government that knows that a general election may only be months away," one Labour figure said.

Before Dudley, Labour's biggest post-war swing had been the modest 12 per

cent when it took the Vale of Glamorgan from the Tories in 1989.

However, the two main parties were yesterday using carefully selected snippets of by-election history to bolster their hopes of victory at the next general election.

Euphoric Labour leaders were comparing the Staffordshire result to the Langbaurgh by-election in November 1991, five months before the last general election, in which Labour took the Conservative seat with a swing of 3.6 per cent. Strategists, contrasting that with yesterday's 22 per cent swing, said it underlined the mountain the Tories must climb to win back the seat.

Conservatives preferred to point to the

Ribble Valley seat, lost to the Liberal Democrats in March 1991 on a 24 per cent swing in the wake of public anger over the poll tax. They won the seat back in the following general election. In 1986, the Conservative seat of Ryedale was lost to the Liberal Alliance but was won back as Margaret Thatcher's Government swept to a 100-seat majority at the 1987 general election.

Before the 1983 general election, the Thatcher Government suffered few by-election reverses. However, it did lose the Glasgow Hillhead seat to Roy Jenkins of the SDP/Liberals in March 1982, then went on to secure a resounding 140-seat majority in the general election in May of the next year.

Balancing act allows Mr President to please rival leaders

BILL CLINTON obviously likes and approves of Tony Blair. But the President has to work with John Major, possibly for another year — and after a rocky start, he has come to respect the Prime Minister and enjoy a reasonable working relationship.

So the White House has engaged a careful balancing act over the visit of Mr Blair to Washington. At the same time on Thursday evening as

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Hillary Clinton was having a friendly and at times animated 20-minute chat with the Labour leader at a private reception. Mike McCurry, the White House press spokesman, was delivering a deliberately even-handed message about good relations with Mr Major to the reporters travelling with the Labour leader.

The same themes were reiterated yesterday when Mr Blair visited the White House. All this was a carefully coordinated exercise between the White House, the British embassy in Washington and the Labour leader's office.

This twin-tracked approach makes political sense as a balance of preference and

necessity. Not only does Mr Clinton have to deal with Mr Major, but relations are genuinely better than they have been. Resentments caused by the intervention of Tory party officials in the 1992 American campaign are now seen as in the distant past, if not forgotten. More to the point, the differences of 1993 over Bosnia and Northern Ireland no longer exist. There is close agreement about the deploy-

ment of Nato forces at present, rather closer than there might be with a Republican president. There have been no complaints from the British side about the White House's cool treatment of Gerry Adams since the end of the IRA ceasefire.

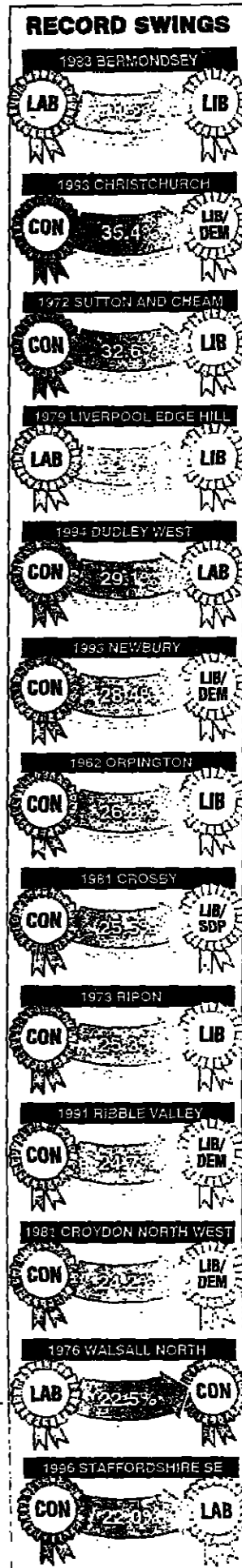
Mr Clinton and Mr Major also see eye-to-eye on reducing trade barriers across the Atlantic, the Middle East and the present uncertainties

caused by elections in Russia. To emphasise their closeness, British officials point out that the two leaders are meeting in Moscow in a week's time.

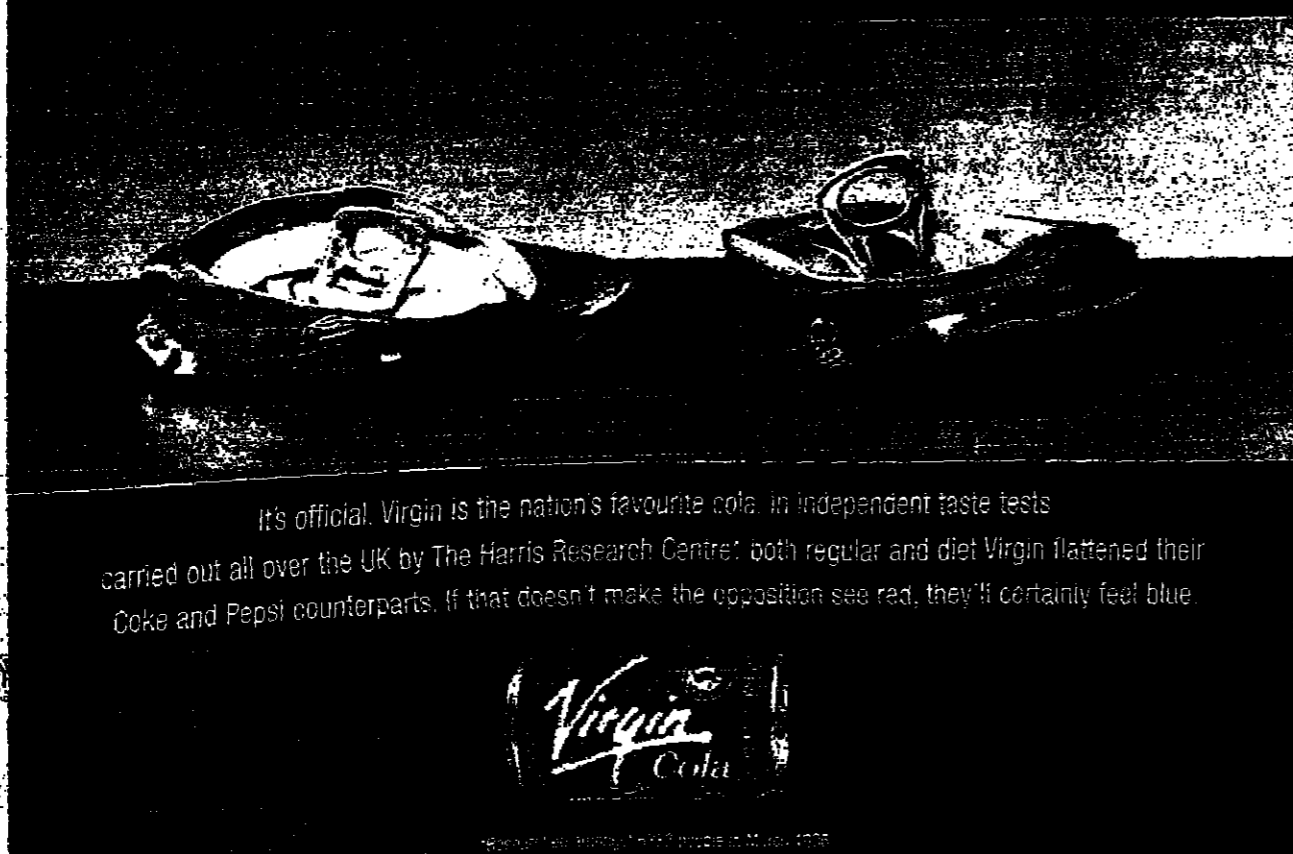
These are the necessities of international diplomacy. Politics is different — and the warmth of the greeting offered by President Clinton, and by Mrs Clinton's decision to meet Mr Blair, are clearly intended as friendly signals of political allies. The interest

shown in Mr Blair's visit by the business and media elite is because he is now regarded in America as the Prime Minister in Waiting. Mr Blair has at times appeared stunned by the degree of interest and by the warmth of the reception. It may not win any votes but it shows how political expectations are changing in Washington as well as at home.

PETER RIDDELL



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Managing your money for the longer term

Letters help to unlock the enigma of Elgar

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SOME 750 letters by Edward Elgar, in which the composer discusses masterpieces such as *The Dream of Gerontius* and the thrill of being praised by Richard Strauss, are to be sold at auction.

The correspondence, which includes 200 unpublished letters, spans his working life. It was sent to his publishers, Novello, in whose archives it has been stored, and is being sold by an anonymous collector.

It is the most important collection of Elgar's letters to be offered at auction, and will be sold by Sotheby's on May 15. Stephen Roe, head of Sotheby's book department, said: "It is an astonishing survival. Elgar was a really great letter-writer. He wrote from the heart, so honest."

Dr Simon Maguire, music manuscript specialist at Sotheby's, said: "This represents the ultimate Elgar collection, covering the conception, composition, preparation, publication, distribution, performance and reception of all his major works. It is immensely characterful."

The correspondence is not easy to read because Elgar, who lived from 1857 to 1934, often used abbreviations. But his prose is often jokey, and there are drawings, including caricatures of himself.

The earliest letters date from the 1890s, when he

tentatively asked Novello if he "might submit" an overture "for your inspection with a view to publishing it".

In a letter of May 23, 1902, Elgar describes the acclaim he received after the German premiere of *Gerontius*, some months after a disastrous performance in Birmingham, partly marred by an under-rehearsed orchestra struggling with a difficult work. "I understand the thing was a triumph. But I feel rather dazed at the success... Richard Strauss, who never speechifies if he can help it, made a really noble oration over *Gerontius*... and it was worth some years of anguish — now I trust over — to hear him call me Meister." Mr Roe explained: "It had taken Elgar ages to be recognised in England as someone who was of interest."

On August 24, 1910, the composer penned a note asking whether the Austrian-born maestro Fritz Kreisler would be interested in performing his violin concerto in America. "It will never do to have it hacked about by the sort of creatures who play in the States," he joked.

The following spring, frustrated that his composing was not going well, he threatened to terminate his contract with Novello and give up music. "I am now well on in years and have to consider a 'move' and make a new home — under the depressing state of my music I have to reconsider this entirely and shall probably go abroad or to a cottage in the country and leave the musical world entirely." But Elgar had a change of heart and remained with Novello for 15 years until a dispute over the rights for the American publication of *Gerontius*.

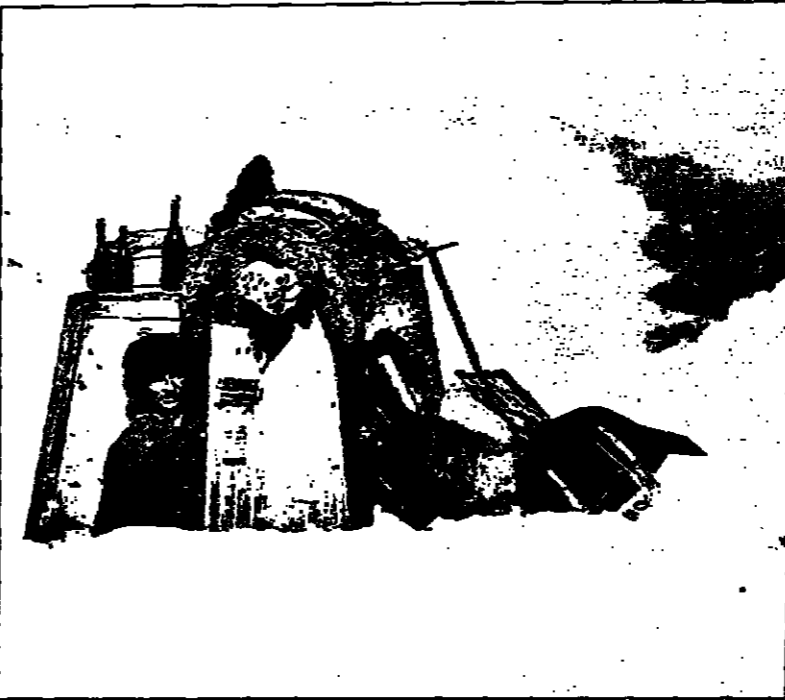
Hugh Cobbe, music librarian at the British Library, said: "We are watching the sale closely. But funds here are terribly restricted. If I could raise the money, I'd go for them like a shot."



Elgar liked to joke and draw caricatures



The high life: William Davidson's *Climbing Party*, from about 1882. Davidson is third from the right. Below are *Unter-Thöodule Glacier and Climbers*, left, photographed by William Donkin in 1879, and *Summit of Mont Blanc*, by Edward Whymper, from about 1894



Victorians scaled the heights of fashion

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PHOTOGRAPHS of Victorian mountaineers almost 150 years ago, in cumbersome dresses or tweed suits and deerstalkers, have been rediscovered in an archive in the East End of London.

The original prints and glass-plate negatives dating from 1850 give a unique record of the intrepid Victorians. The British, however ill-equipped for the elements, were the first to popularise climbing in the Alps. The photographs show them with ice-axes, walking-sticks and hob-nailed boots.

The photographs are to be published by Atlas Limited Editions, specialists in historical photography. Half the 34 images have never been published before; most of the others were last published as long ago as the 1930s.

Taking the photographs was no easy feat. The equipment weighed up to 45lb and the glass plates were about 1ft 6in by 2ft. To take the equivalent of a modern roll of film, the photographs could need 25 guides and porters.

The glass-plate negatives were developed on the spot. There were many accidents, including the one in which four of Edward Whymper's colleagues fell to their deaths while roped together on the Matterhorn.

The photographers included the Englishman William Donkin, known as the father of Alpine photography, and the French Bisson brothers, who took the first pictures of Mont Blanc. Chamonix and Zermatt are barely recognisable from the ski resorts they have become today.

The photographs were unearthed from an archive owned by the Alpine Club, founded in 1857 for "the promotion of good fellowship among mountaineers, of mountain climbing and exploration throughout the world, and of better knowledge of the mountains through literature, science and art". Chris Bonington will open an exhibition at the club, in Charlotte Road, Shoreditch, running from Thursday until May 17.

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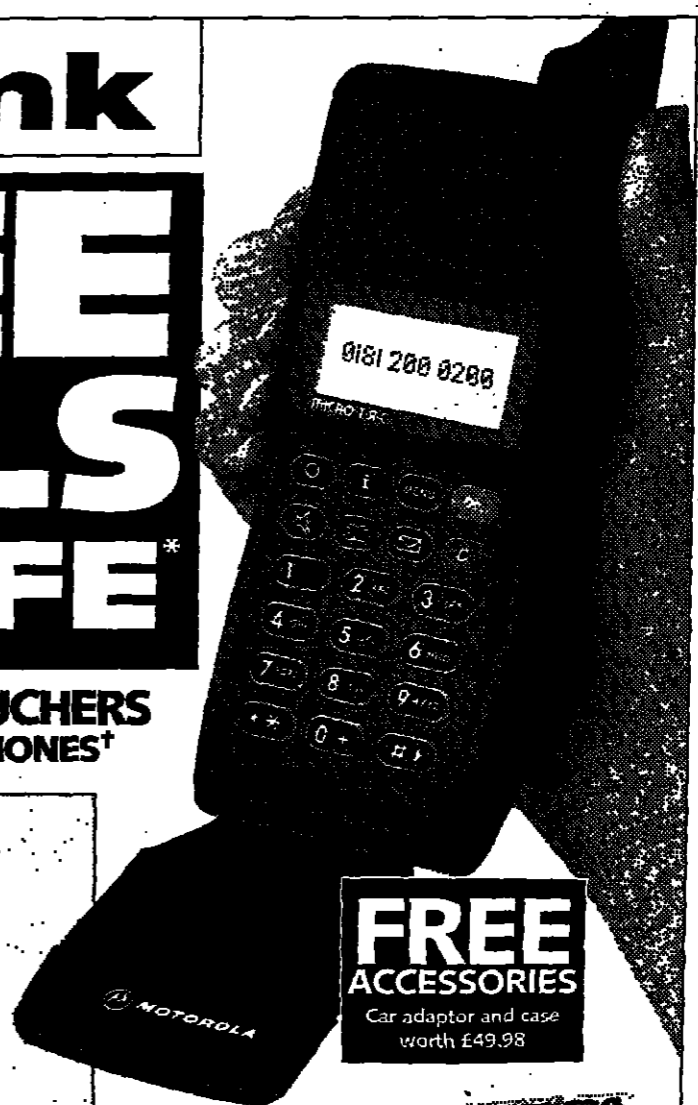
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Hezbollah's Katyushas batter Jewish town for second day

Israelis step up rocket attacks on Lebanon targets

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S war with Islamic extremists in Lebanon intensified yesterday and threatened to draw in other Arab nations after Israeli helicopters hit a Syrian military position in Beirut.

Witnesses said three Israeli helicopters fired rockets at a Syrian anti-aircraft position near Beirut's international airport, in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital.

Several Syrian soldiers and civilians were reported wounded in the attack, as Israel apparently tried to strike near a mosque of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God), the target of its raids.

Ambulances were reported racing through the city, as the streets emptied, with some observers describing the scene as reminiscent of the civil war in Beirut from 1975-1990 which destroyed the once beautiful city.

Syria has 35,000 troops in Lebanon as the country's main power broker. Israel is holding Syria responsible for allowing Hezbollah to continue rocketing communities in the northern region of the Jewish state. The danger of bringing Syria more directly into the conflict was heightened further after Israel's campaign extended into the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon, where Syria has troops. Thousands of Lebanese were said to be

fleeing north after a threat by Israel to shell the entire region.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, pledged: "We are not looking to hurt civilians and we have called on them to leave their villages [in the area]." Four civilians were killed and seven others injured during the Israeli attacks on the area yesterday before the evacuation began.

US issues plea to militants

Washington: The White House urged Hezbollah to avoid unnecessary provocation but had no response to yesterday's Israeli retaliation (Tom Rhodes writes). "We are trying to work towards a resolution," said an official, who said contact had been made at ambassadorial level in Syria, Israel and Lebanon.

Eight other people were reported wounded in earlier Israeli air and artillery strikes on south Lebanon, while the

helicopter raids in the Shia Muslim southern suburbs of Beirut reportedly wounded at least another five.

The latest Israeli actions, the second strike against Hezbollah targets in as many days, came after guerrilla fighters with the militant Islamic group fired another barrage of Katyusha rockets. Israel hit back immediately at the suspected sources of the rockets in south Lebanon and Mr Peres said there would be further retaliation after more civilians had left the area. He was speaking during a visit to Kiryat Shmona, one of the Jewish towns struck by the Katyusha rockets. A woman was seriously injured when her car took a direct hit.

Mr Peres, who was accompanied during his tour by General Amnon Shahak, the army chief of staff, said: "Hezbollah must understand that it can get nothing using force against Israel." General Shahak accused Hezbollah of a cowardly attack by waiting until Israelis had left their bomb shelters yesterday morning before rocketing the northern region.

In Damascus, hopes were fading last night for a diplomatic breakthrough at a summit due to be held today between President Assad of Syria and his Lebanese counterpart, Elias Hrawi.



Israelis fix firing mechanisms on shells at a Lebanon border base yesterday

'It is easy to reach Beirut, but difficult to leave it'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AS ISRAELI missiles pounded the sprawling Shia Muslim slums of Beirut yesterday for the second time in 24 hours, the Israeli Government was reminded of the dangers inherent in stretching its arm of revenge so far.

Writing in Tel Aviv's biggest-selling newspaper, *Yediot Ahronot*, Nahum Barnea, the leading columnist, delivered a sober note to accompany the euphoria of carefully orchestrated government announcements about "smart bombs" and other hi-tech weapons.

"All the wars in Lebanon began

well with videotapes of exploding headquarters and videotapes of our planes returning safely to their bases," wrote Barnea, a commentator who recently lost his 20-year-old son in an Islamic suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem. "The problems occurred later... Experience teaches us that while it is easy to reach Beirut, it is difficult to leave it."

The note of caution was delivered amid ominous signs on both sides that the escalating Arab-Israeli violence of the past two days could soon spread, possibly dragging in Syria or Iran and jeopardising the frail Middle East peace process.

In Israel, Major-General Amiram Levine, the hardline head of Israel's

Northern Command, issued a warning that the return of Israel to an attack-profile not seen since the early days of the 1982 Lebanon War could last for another two weeks. Speaking after meeting leaders of local councils, who live within rocket range of Hezbollah militants in southern Lebanon, the general said: "I told them that patience and fortitude is needed."

The fear among residents of northern Israel was most clearly demonstrated in the soulless town of Kiryat Shmona, where nearly half the 23,000 inhabitants fled out of rocket range in buses and cars.

Fuelling the sudden escalation is the fact that in less than two months

Israelis will be voting in a general election in which security is the key issue. "One should not ignore the fact that these incidents are occurring about 50 days before the elections," observed *Haaretz*, the Hebrew daily paper. "No Israeli Government can exist so long as there are protests against it in Kiryat Shmona."

From the Arab side, the entirely predictable response to Israel's nine-hour air attack on Thursday — more rockets targeted on Kiryat Shmona and other places — was followed by more ominous warnings about the conflict spreading well beyond Israel's northern border.

A group known as the Organis-

ation of Oppressed, considered by intelligence experts as a *nom de guerre* for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, claimed responsibility for the explosion at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires four years ago and issued a warning that the resumption of air raids on Beirut would provoke more suicide attacks in Tel Aviv and against Jewish and American targets worldwide.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah leader, said: "The response to the air bombing of Beirut will take place at a different place, and we will choose the time and place. When we carry this out, it will stun Peres" (Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister).

Bomber blows off legs

Jerusalem: Israeli police are questioning a man who blew off his legs and right hand as he was preparing a bomb, ripping apart the Jerusalem hotel where he was staying (Ross Dunn writes).

"It was either a bomb or some kind of explosive materials," Arie Armit, Jerusalem's police chief said. Nobody else was hurt.

Hospital staff said that the man's life was not in danger and he was still conscious when police brought him in. It was not clear whether the suspect was a would-be suicide bomber. Publication of his name has been banned.

The charge exploded in the Lawrence Hotel on Salah El-Din Street, the main thoroughfare of east Jerusalem.

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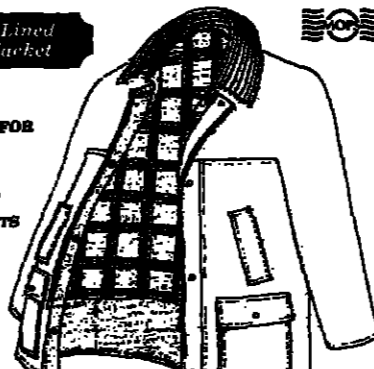
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

Lloyd's ready to improve offer to names

By Sarah Bagnall

LLOYD'S of London is confident of lifting its settlement offer above £3 billion, enabling it to reduce the burden of losses that have fallen on "honourable" names who have paid their debts to the society.

Negotiations with potential contributors to the settlement package, which currently stands at £2.8 billion, are still under way but sources close to the insurance market believe that the sum will be increased by at least £300 million.

A large number of names are angry that they have consistently paid their losses to the market but are worse off under the settlement offer than those names who avoided paying their cash calls.

Names who joined action groups in order to litigate will still be deemed "honourable" if they have paid their losses. The total number of names that fall into this category is not known but it is believed to run into several thousands.

The anticipated reduction in many names' bills is the result of the combined effect of the extra funds together with the prospect of a reduction in the amount of money names will have to pay to Equitas, a new reinsurance company that is being set up to take over names' liabilities relating to risks insured before 1993.

Last month, Lloyd's sent out indicative statements to its 34,000 names, providing them with estimates of how much they will have to pay to settle finally all their debts with the society.

Lloyd's has lost more than £5 billion in the past five years and the settlement package is an attempt to end a mass of legal actions taken by names.

The indicative statements were based on the assumption that the Department of Trade and Industry would require names to inject £1.9 billion of extra funds into Equitas. This sum is now expected to be reduced to nearer £1.5 billion.

Having taken account of names' reactions to the indicative statements, Lloyd's has identified several groupings to whom it wishes to make a better offer. They include names who cannot meet their final bills to the market.



New leaf: Dieter Bock is intent on divesting Lonrho's mining interests and concentrating on other activities

Germans intensify bid battle for C&W

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH TELECOM is under pressure to strike a merger agreement with Cable and Wireless after the disclosure that Deutsche Telekom, Europe's biggest phone company, is considering bidding for C&W.

The disclosure, made in Frankfurt by Joachim Kroschke, Deutsche Telekom's finance director, is the first official indication that BT's plan to merge with C&W may be challenged. Other large phone companies and consortia are thought to be considering a bid for some or all of C&W, whose interests range from 80 per cent of Mercury Communications to 57.5 per cent of Hong Kong Telecom.

One financial adviser said: "These companies would be negligent if they didn't look at Cable and Wireless. Every serious phone company has to have a presence in the Asia-Pacific market and in the UK, the telecoms hub of Europe."

Similarly, with C&W in play, the board of directors has an obligation to strike the best deal for shareholders. Although BT is the logical partner, C&W would have to give serious consideration to all takeover proposals. The Government has given no indication that it would use its foreign share to block a foreign takeover.

BT has been trying to strike a deal with C&W since late last year. The structure of the proposed merger has been broadly agreed, but the two companies are thought to be far apart on valuations. They are likely to disclose early next month whether they are to proceed with formal merger negotiations.

Mr Kroschke said that Deutsche Telekom and C&W "are involved in sensitive, pre-exploratory talks. But there have been no official discussions."

He added that Britain was a strategic priority for Deutsche Telekom, which is to be privatised in November. "The English market is a dominant market in Europe through which a lot of [telecoms] traffic streams are routed. We are of the opinion that we want to be present in this region, alone or with partners."

Shares in C&W closed up 9p at 535p on the news that Deutsche Telekom was a potential bidder after touching a high of 546p. BT's shares gained 1 1/2p to 371 1/2p.

Before Mr Kroschke's comments, the speculation was that Deutsche Telekom was interested only in Mercury Communications, which BT would have to sell if it merged with C&W to avoid a monopolies inquiry. Deutsche Telekom is also pondering a bid for Videotron, the cable company put up for auction by its Canadian parent, Videotron, with cable-telephony rights in the City and Westminster, would provide the German

company with an instant base on which to build a British telecoms service.

Analysts and financial advisers said a bid by Deutsche Telekom is possible but unlikely partly because the company is saddled with debts of almost DM100 billion. C&W has a market capitalisation of about £12 billion and the takeover premium could add billions to the price tag.

More importantly, it is highly unlikely that Deutsche Telekom would be able to merge with C&W through a reverse takeover. In such a deal, C&W would issue new shares to take over the much larger BT, instead of the other way around. BT proposed the reverse takeover to avoid the £6 billion-plus expense of having to buy out the minority shareholders of Hong Kong Telecom.

Hidden Assets, page 27
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Anglo American tightens grip on Lonrho

By Jon Ashworth

ANGLO American, the South African mining group, has tightened its grip on Lonrho, buying a way into a £1.2 billion pan-African mining portfolio that includes Ashanti Goldfields.

Anglo American has taken an option over 18.4 per cent of Lonrho shares, lifting effective control to 28.5 per cent. The move gives it first pick at a portfolio spanning gold, coal and platinum and blocks moves by rivals such as American Barrick, Gencor and RITZ-CRA.

Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive, is intent on divesting the group's mining interests and concentrating on non-mining activities, including sugar and hotels. A proposed demerger is expected to be put to shareholders in the summer.

The opening shots were fired last month, when Anglo paid £91 million for the 5.9 per cent stake in Lonrho formerly held by Tiny Rowland. It has since lifted its stake to 7.5 per cent. The group controls a further 2.6 per cent through Southern Life, an associate company, and has now clinched the right to buy Mr Bock's 18.4 per cent stake.

The option is expected to be exercised simultaneously with the Lonrho demerger, providing cash for Mr Bock, and giving Anglo American an instant 28.5 per cent stake in a lucrative pan-African portfolio. Lonrho's interests embrace coal and platinum, and include a 37 per cent stake in Ashanti, the Ghanaian gold producer. Anglo American has been looking to expand its mining interests beyond the Zambesi. Lonrho shares were steady at 207.5p.

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WEEKEND MONEY

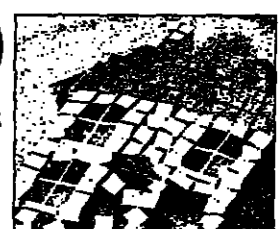


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BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3768.8	(+22.4)
Yield	3.94%	
FT-SE A All share	1878.5	(+10.5)
Nikkei	21850.47	(-33.96)
New York	5508.02	(+20.95)
Dow Jones	8877.00	(+10.00)
S&P Composite	635.45	(+4.11)
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(9 1/4%)
Long Bond	6.84%	(6.94%)
Yield		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Libor long git	105 1/2%	(104 1/2%)
Future (Jun)		
New York	1.5125	(1.5114)
London	1.5125	(1.5131)
DM	2.2750	(2.2713)
DM	7.7250	(7.7180)
S&P	1.8525	(1.8468)
Yen	108.25	(108.10)
S Index	96.8	(96.7)
Tokyo close Yen 109.05		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$29.40	(\$29.95)
Oil		
London close	\$34.45	(\$36.25)

London	1.5035	(1.5029)
DM	5.1075	(5.1065)
DM	1.2225	(1.2210)
S&P	108.55	(108.57)
Yen	96.8	(96.7)
S Index		

Bid approval talk boosts power shares

By Sarah Cunningham

ELECTRICITY shares powered ahead yesterday, driven by reports that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is to clear PowerGen's £1.9 billion bid for Midlands Electric and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern Electric and by expectations of further takeover bids in the sector.

The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed that it had received the commission's report late last month. It would not say when Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, would announce his decision on the bids, but expectations were growing that it would be soon.

The less than stringent conditions reportedly attached to the go-ahead for

the bids boosted share prices. The next important factor will be the prices at which the two generators relaunch their bids.

PowerGen shares closed at 562.5p, up 13.5p. National Power at 492p, up 14p, Midlands Electric at 405p, up 7p, and Southern Electric at 895p up 21p. Other power firms' shares also rose.

Piers Coombs, analyst with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "We expect this will be the catalyst for another round of bids for the remaining regional companies - London, Yorkshire, East Midlands and Northern." American power firms are expected to be first in line as bidders.

Melvyn Marckus, page 26
Tempus, page 28

Second refinancing in a year for NP

By Sarah Bagnall

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING (NP), the publisher of the Independent and the Independent on Sunday, yesterday announced its second refinancing in less than a year involving an equity for debt swap and the raising of £9 million of fresh funds.

The funds are being injected by Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) and Independent Newspapers (IP), the Dublin publishing group controlled by Tony O'Reilly.

In total the companies, which are Newspaper Publishing's two largest shareholders, are injecting £23 million of equity into the loss-making publishing group. Of this, £14 million relates to the conversion into equity of loans made by Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers.

The balance of £9 million is new money, which will cover the group's forecast losses of £6 million for the current year.

The two companies have agreed to subscribe for a total of 85.7 million shares, at 31p a share, on the basis of one new share for every one already held.

As a result both MGN and IP will lift their holdings in NP from 43 per cent to 46.4 per cent.

Prisa, the Spanish publisher of El Pais, is not taking up its rights to new shares and as a result will see its holding slip from 12 per cent to 6.73 per cent.

The transaction follows a £20 million refinancing last summer. Mirror Group's shares closed 1p down yesterday at 229p.

Worried investors hunt the ostrich

By Robert Miller and Karen Zagor

HUNDREDS of concerned investors, many of whom have spent at least £14,000 for each ostrich acquired through the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC), have formed a fledgling action group to try to secure their investments.

The troubled OFC, which raised many millions of pounds from thousands of people, has been placed in provisional

liquidation by the High Court at the request of the Department of Trade and Industry. It is the subject of an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

Stephen Whitmore, a partner of Wilsons, a Salisbury law firm, said yesterday that he had received hundreds of inquiries relating to OFC from investors worldwide. He said that the most important was initially to establish the ownership of individual birds.

Eddy Nachtergaele, the Belgian farm-

er who looks after OFC's birds, yesterday told The Times that he had 3,000 birds on his two farms and at five other sites. A further 800-900 OFC ostriches were being shipped from Namibia. He said that the Official Receiver seemed satisfied after his visit to the farms.

Michael Pugh, the UK's Official Receiver, plans to write to individual investors soon.

Weekend Money, page 32

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: MARK MASSARELLA

'Godfather' relishes family taste for catering

Jon Ashworth meets the MD of an Italian ice-cream dynasty with a belief in horses for courses

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

IT WAS a bad week for Mark Massarella. He had put German sausage on the menu in department

stores across the UK, just as the nation commemorated the anniversary of the first doodlebugs landing on London. An earlier German promotion was launched on the day the Bundesbank failed to support Britain in the exchange-rate mechanism. His timing left a lot to be desired.

Mark's father, Ronnie, made a similar gaffe in his role as manager of the British showjumping team. He declared on television that he would sooner pick men over women riders because they withstood the pressure better. What's more, you could have a drink with them and give them a "good bollocking". How to endear yourself to half the nation...

Horses and meals just about sum up the Massarellas, who began selling ice-cream to northerners, and proceeded to build one of the UK's biggest private catering

groups. Buy an ice-cream in Hamleys, on Regent Street, and you will have the Massarellas to thank for it. Most of the House of Fraser in-store cafes and restaurants fall under their control. Mark, 44, is managing director of Massarella Catering Group, which employs 1,800 people, and made a pre-tax profit of £2.1 million on turnover of £35 million last year.

The foundations were laid in 1860 when Mark's grandfather, Giovanni, set out from Italy with his family bound for a new life in America. "Rumour has it that they were on their way to the States, stopped off in South Yorkshire to visit friends, and really fell in love with the place," says Mark, sounding every bit the Yorkshireman.

Giovanni set about building an ice-cream business using an old handcart. By the 1900s his 12 sons were hard at work selling the goods. "The confectionery industry was very prevalent around the Doncaster area," says Mark. "My

father's early years were spent waiting outside the pits at 11 or 12 o'clock at night for [the] shift to come out, where they'd buy ice-cream. The stories go that the horses really knew their own way home because my father or his brothers were often fast asleep in the bottom of the cart."

In the 1950s, the family sold what was possibly the most advanced ice-cream manufacturing plant in the UK, if not in Europe, to J Lyons, later Lyons Maid. Ronnie Massarella bought back part of the business in 1963, and made it a market leader in soft ice-cream retailing.

In 1968, Ronnie was given the task of taking his cousin's horse, Mr Softee, to the Olympic Games in Mexico City. He was asked to step in after the team manager fell ill and was duly made Chef d'Equipe, a position he holds to this day.

The British showjumping team included Lady Fraser, wife of Sir Hugh, who had taken charge at House of Fraser on the death of his father.

Massarella restaurants soon began appearing in House of Fraser stores in Blackpool and Newcastle upon Tyne. The company subsequently

won the contract to supply ice-cream to Selfridge's in London, and held it for 16 years.

Mark runs the company with his three brothers, and does not have a regular routine. One day might find him visiting a new House of Fraser site in Swindon. The next might find him travelling round the M25 for discussions with clients. "I don't have such a thing as an average week. Some days I'm out very early in the morning and out until nine and ten at night. Other days I'll wander into the office at nine o'clock like anybody else. I try to not work on a Sunday now."

Mark left school at 16, and joined an ice-cream retailing depot in Doncaster, working his way up to depot manager. He was involved from the outset when the family began to diversify, opening the family's first in-store restaurant at Atkinsons in Sheffield.

Traditional British favourites such as baked beans on toast might be on the



Mark Massarella, one of four brothers in the family firm with a good working relationship and who "see themselves very much as equals with our own strengths"

way out. "I think tastes in food have changed tremendously in the last seven or eight years. People are travelling more, and have developed a very cosmopolitan taste. We are selling a range of Italian breads where people previously wanted a wrapped sandwich. I think coffee proves it more than anything. Flavoured coffees and the cappuccinos are all back in vogue."

Mark regularly travels abroad to cater: up on the latest trends, and would like to see more theatre in his venues, with glass-fronted kitchens, and chefs whipping up stir-fries in full view of the diners. He thinks London has a lot to learn from New York. "There are so many good restaurants, even those in Saks Fifth Avenue and Barney's on Madison. They're superb and very entertaining, and they seem to have a lot more theatre about them."

American-style flair is creep-

ing into Massarella venues. "I was in a restaurant on Fifth Avenue where you could dip different types of bread into different oils, and buy both. We have jars filled with Italian mushrooms and olives and artichokes, and the customer actually sees us larding them out onto salads. We've seen a demand for them. If people can take home what they eat, it's a good add-on."

The Massarella empire is run from Thurcroft Hall near Sheffield, home to Ronnie, 72, and his wife, Edna, and set in 200 acres. There is a riding school in the grounds, and board meetings are punctuated by neighing from 20 horses.

Mark lives in the Old Laundry with his wife and five sons and is hailed in the family's publicity material as the Godfather, the one who listens to the ideas and seeks out the clients. Jeremy is portrayed as "the *Consigliere*, the money

man who the others believe is not really Italian in origin, but from another nationality more renowned for keeping a tight hold on the purse strings". A third brother, Stephen, is "the Arthur Dely, the wheeler and dealer. None of the others really know what he does out of business hours."

Michael, the quiet one, serves as the inspiration

for many of the menus. "Out of work he sees himself as a typical Italian peasant, growing veggie and pottering around his farm." Mark plays down the Godfather angle. "Obviously, I work very closely with my brothers and we have a very good family working relationship. We see ourselves very much as equals

with our own strengths." This said, Papa and the boys have a habit of turning up en masse at Dickins & Jones or the Army & Navy. "We try to make two visits a year as a board of directors and family together, to every restaurant. That's become a custom now."

Mark visits up to 20 stores some weeks. Nearly 1,000 food lines are distributed around the UK, and communication can be tricky at times. Mark recalls the store manager who dispatched an employee to a local supermarket to buy fresh supplies of chips. "She came back with a freshly wrapped bag of chips in newspaper from the local fish and chip shop. It just shows you how communication can go wrong."

Mark hopes to win more contracts running staff canteens - never, traditionally, the most gourmet of experiences. "We've only scratched

at the surface with our business in that sector. Most clients, now, are wanting a lot more for their staff with perhaps less subsidy attached to it. I think people will pay a little bit more if they know they're getting some variety and something better."

Massarella is locked in a battle for market share with the giants of UK catering, Compass, Sutcliffe and Gardner Merchant, but insists no one in the family is ready to cash in their chips, however generous the offer. "We've had a few tempting discussions, but none of us is at the stage where we want to sell out." About £2 million of profit was ploughed back into the business last year, after payment of directors' fees, which Mark insists are reasonable. "There's certainly no fat cats on our board at the moment."

The aim is to lift pre-tax profits from £2.1 million to

£3.5 million by 2000, on turnover rising from £35 million to £55 million. "That's very realistic, and we're already in negotiations with independent shopping centres. Staff catering is becoming more retail. We feel we are well placed."

Family-run companies are prone to feuds, as followers of C&J Clark and Unilevers are well aware. Mark insists that all is well at Massarella. "I think I've been very fortunate with my brothers that we've worked very well together and we've kept the business as a whole. I think what tends to happen with a lot of family businesses is that you get to a certain size and get married, and split up the business. We've actually managed to maintain a growing business where we work very well together and trade off each other's strengths. What the next generation's going to be like, God only knows."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Telecoms giant enjoys art of water

Art on a big scale provides a relaxing feature at the headquarters of Cable and Wireless. Joanna Pitman reports

If the tense negotiations between Cable & Wireless and British Telecom, aimed at forging a £32 billion merger, get bogged down in complexities, you can imagine that Brian Smith, chairman of Cable & Wireless, might seek calming inspiration from the six-storey waterfall that flows peacefully, from morning to night, in the atrium of his company's head office.

The waterfall, technically a water sculpture, is the work of William Pye, the artist who designed the monumental 70-yard wall for Nicholas Grimshaw's British Pavilion at Expo '92 in Seville.

While the water wall was a highlight of the Expo, Pye later caught the public eye in Britain with his water sculpture at Gatwick Airport.

The work, *Slipstream and Jetstream*, is in the departure lounge of the North Terminal and consists of two large asymmetrical cones covered by a thin lamina film of flowing water that is dragged into rhythmic wave patterns.

Hundreds of people pass it every day as they descend a circular walking ramp that curls around it on the way to the departure gates.

C&W's investment in Pye was a shrewd and early one. In 1989, when plans for refurbishing C&W's 1956 building at 124 Theobalds Road, London, were being discussed, Gordon Owen, then managing director, suggested a water feature, and Pye was found. The piece he

produced for C&W, with his architect, David Franklin, is simply entrancing. It is called *Aventino*, after one of the hills of Rome that was home to Mercury.

It consists of a continuous "wall" of water flowing six storeys down platinated bronze panels that are sculpted to create a rippled effect. At the bottom, the water wall fans out to flow down a wide glass sheet and into a shallow pond in the foyer.

The sculpture is lit with powerful theatrical lights to pick out the different colours in the bronze backdrop and to highlight the shapes created by the moving flow.

Light shades of green and the cool Portland stone facades all around create a graceful, tranquil ambience in the humming headquarters of one of the world's biggest telecommunications groups. When you use the glass-fronted lifts, you pass behind the flow of water and can look down on a furious cascade. It is a sensation similar to walking behind the torrential flow of Niagara Falls.

Since the C&W work, Pye has been involved in many big engineering and construction projects, including theme consultant to Teesside Development Corporation.

It is no surprise that his creativity has followed this direction. His father was Sir David Pye, a president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, who helped to found the engineering school at Cambridge.



Cable and Wireless's six-storey atrium waterfall

After graduating from the Royal College of Art, Pye joined a West End gallery, where he had several successful exhibitions. However, the larger scales of industrial materials and processes soon began to interest him and a fascination with big outdoor works lured him away from

the intimacy of the gallery world. He was worked with various degrees of success as a sculptor in a number of media for 25 years until the 1980s, when he became fascinated by the idea of working with water. "Water sculpture" at the time had barely progressed beyond the foun-

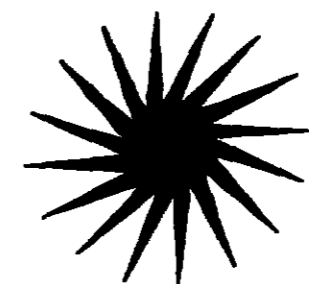
tain, and Pye began his water work in the US, producing sculptures in or around pools, and five pieces for shopping malls.

Pye's first real "water sculpture" is *Water Trellis*, a triangle of steel tubes from which water shoots in a serene, curved stream. After that, he began a series of sculptures that consist of bowls brimming with water. The mesmerising focus of each piece is the way in which the meniscus stands above the rim of the bowls. The surfaces are so smooth, dark and opaque that they look like polished black marble.

Each piece requires a high level of lead detection and closely monitored water treatment. In one early work, Pye ended up with gallons and gallons of bright red, rusty water because an engineer had failed to use stainless steel piping. After that, Pye decided to oversee construction himself.

The C&W installation includes a sophisticated leak detection system that will trigger a shut-off of the water supply and make the pumps drain the system. Filters and a water treatment plant have been custom-made and are designed to pump nearly nine gallons a second around the sculpture.

In many ways, Pye is an architect-sculptor, a rare combination, and he is now rising high in Britain's firmament of artistic stars. *Aventino* has been short-listed, with six other pieces, for the 1995 Art and Work Award, and members of the Fountains Society make pilgrimages to Theobalds Road to view C&W's flowing art.



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UNIT-LINK LOSS 30

Those who miss out in the Clerical Medical takeover

WEEKEND MONEY

BUMPY RIDE 35

Ups and downs of owning an escalator bond



Ombudsman responds to payout row

Sara McConnell says the outrage felt by dispossessed savers may lead to a law change

Brian Murphy, the Building Societies Ombudsman, is to press for an extension of his powers to allow him to investigate complaints from hundreds of thousands of savers and borrowers who have been excluded from bonus payouts from society mergers and conversions.

The move by the independent official, who intervenes in disputes between societies and their savers and borrowers, comes in the week that the National & Provincial's 1.4 million members voted overwhelmingly for their society to be taken over by the Abbey National in return for payouts of up to £4,750. But the vote only went through after his board suffered hours of attacks by members who will lose out.

Such is the anger felt by those who did not qualify for payouts from the Woolwich that they have formed a protest group, headed by David Adams, a Woolwich saver for 26 years. Mr Adams, who believes the most effective action is for long-term members to join together, has invited all disgruntled savers and borrowers to meet at the Moat House in Oxford on May 11 where an action plan will be drawn up.

Meanwhile, angry members excluded from bonus payouts from N&P and other societies are besieging the

ombudsman's office, demanding that he intervene to force societies to reverse their decision. The Times has received many similar letters. But the ombudsman cannot investigate such complaints as they are outside his remit.

Many savers and borrowers

have already missed out on payouts after the takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester by Lloyds. Many more will be excluded from bonanzas after the conversions of the Halifax and the Woolwich to public companies and the takeover of National & Provincial by the Abbey National. The Alliance & Leicester has yet to announce details of bonuses for members who agree to it becoming a bank.

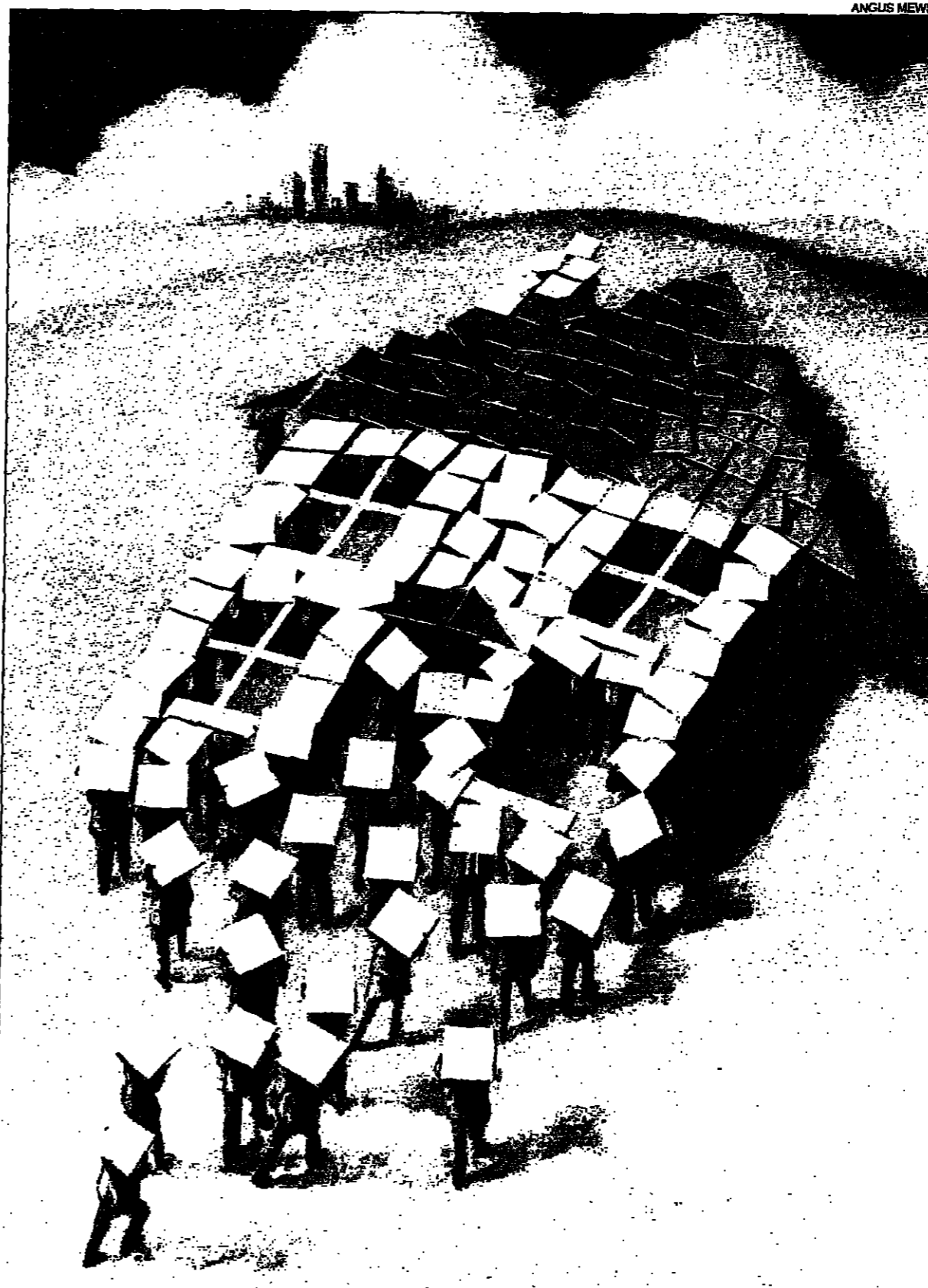
Building societies blame poorly drafted legislation governing takeovers and conversions for many exclusions. But societies themselves have come under attack for setting arbitrary cut-off dates, disqualifying loyal members. To thwart opportunists who were opening accounts in the first weeks of January, the Woolwich fixed on December 31, 1995. But this worked against many long-term investors who had taken their balance below the £100 limit on that date.

As the takeover speculation grows again this week, Mr Murphy is concerned that excluded members have no redress, apart from the courts. The Building Societies Commission will hear formal representations from members when it is deciding whether or not to approve takeovers or conversions but will only investigate whether correct procedures have been followed.

N&P answers, page 30

THE RULES

- You can only qualify for a cash payout if you have been a qualifying member for at least two years. This means either that you have had £100 or more in a share account at the date set by the building society or that you owe £100 or more on a mortgage.
- If you have been a qualifying member for less than two years you can only receive a bonus as shares.
- Only the first named person on the account counts as a member. After an outcry, a Private Member's Bill brought by Douglas French, MP, changed the rules to allow widows and widowers to receive payouts if the first named holder died before a payout.
- Deposit accounts have no membership rights.



Full steam ahead from Monday

The pathfinder prospectus for the £1.8 billion Railtrack privatisation will be launched on Monday, amid a flurry of train similes, such as "gathering a head of steam" and "about to leave the station," Anne Ashworth writes.

The draft document will not contain the price for shares in the company, which owns the rail network's track, termini and tunnels. But these blanks will be filled in on May 1 when the final version of the prospectus is expected.

Meanwhile, the stock market already predicts that Railtrack's shares, in their partly-paid discounted form, will offer a yield of about 15-20 per cent. The yield on the fully-paid shares should be about 6 per cent, comparable to the return on the National Grid.

The price will reflect the political uncertainties surrounding Railtrack. Labour has already announced that, if it takes power, it will toughen the regulatory regime governing the business. However, it will not seek to renationalise the business. An outline of the party's proposals will appear in the prospectus. It will also contain details of the departure of Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, the official responsible for selling off British Rail's passenger services. The surprise news late this week of his decision to quit has cast something of a shadow over the flotation.

Payment for Railtrack shares will be in two instalments, each in a different tax year. Individual investors will get a discount on their first instalment. Under the terms of the incentive package, announced on Thursday, they will also be able to receive a 15p discount on the second instalment on the first 800 shares allocated. This sweetener is worth a maximum of £120. Investors can also opt for one free bonus share for every 15 held continuously until May 31 1999. These incentives apply only through share shops.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Mutual — well, for the moment

As the Bristol & West Building Society prepares to turn itself into a bank on nearly 150 years of mutual tradition by passing into the control of the Bank of Ireland, speculation surrounding the sector is running at a high pitch.

After the news that both the Bristol & West and the Northern Rock, as predicted by The Times, are abandoning mutualism, the focus is increasingly turning to the medium-sized societies, such as Birmingham Midshires, West Bromwich, Chelsea, National Counties, Norwich & Peterborough and Portman. The societies are seen as possible hostile bid targets, or as candidates for friendly mergers.

All have this week protested that they intend to remain independent. But such words now sound hollow since they

were also spoken by every society that has announced its intention to turn itself into a bank, or become a bank subsidiary. This quote from the Birmingham Midshires is typical: "We are committed to our mutual values, we have had no approaches and there have been no talks."

The Portman, however, is being more realistic. The society is ranked 12th but, in the new order, after the various conversions and takeovers, it will be nearer sixth place and interested in merging with a medium-sized building society in the South of England.

"We are interested in looking at mergers, where they make geographical sense and as long as the Portman was the dominant partner," said John Gully, the society's head of corporate affairs. "The problem is that as soon as an

interest in a merger is announced, you are considered 'in play' and that's when a bank could make a hostile bid." Other societies are running scared from the torrent of funds now flowing through their doors and some are rejecting new customers. The National Counties, 32nd in the league, and the Lambeth, ranked at number 30, this week announced that they are no longer opening share accounts.

The Nationwide, the second largest society, this week showed its commitment to mutualism by cutting its mortgage rate to 6.74 per cent, 0.51 per cent below the Halifax. But this action will not ensure that it escapes the speculation, as it is seen as a possible aggressor, eager to acquire other societies. Although today the phrase "mutual and proud

of it" is never far from the lips of any Nationwide executive, the society has, in the recent past, contemplated a stock market flotation. These plans were scotched when it lost out to Abbey National in the struggle for control of the National & Provincial. The Nationwide has also been seen as a possible target for the Midland Bank which would be eager to enlarge its mortgage operations.

This week the society stated its position thus: "We are not actively looking for merger opportunities but if another society shared our values, we would be happy to talk to them. However, we would not want to get into a bidding auction with a plc."

SARAH JONES AND ANNE ASHWORTH

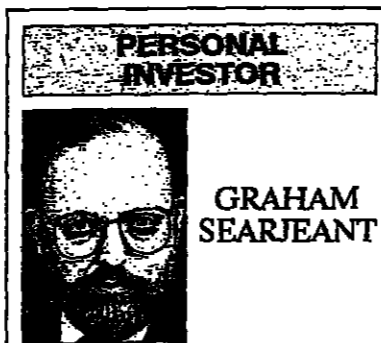
Murphy in Downing Street

Merrill Lynch's latest City survey found that 93 per cent of the fund managers polled expected Labour to form the next government. Individuals are not so nearly unanimous. Loyal Tories hate to think their party will lose. But after the voters' verdict it is assumed that the sensible strategy is to assume Tony Blair will be at Number 10 by May next year and Gordon Brown next door.

This need not make investors pore over Labour policy papers in search of winners and losers. There will be plenty of that, but it will be a frustrating task. To start with, Labour has made a virtue of avoiding controversy, or the commitment that traditionally boosted public sector construction and investment. Intentions are also a poor guide to what actually happens. In 1979-80, the last time the new Conservative government wanted to sweep away swathes of manufacturing industry. Yet that was the result of its actions.

In one respect, events are likely to repeat what happened 17 years ago, the last time the political tide reversed. Now, as then, the incumbent government is likely to take short-term measures to boost its chances. In 1979, Labour's Clegg commission on public sector pay delivered an unwelcome boost to public spending and inflation for the incoming Conservatives.

The present Cabinet seems addicted to unpopular measures, but the Chancellor will certainly cut direct taxes and for will certainly avoid any interest rate rise in the next 12 months, almost regardless of circumstance. A new Labour govern-



ment, like the Tories in 1979, would be too wrapped up in its own agenda for ministers to have their eye fully on the economic ball. In 1979, for instance, a long-planned switch from direct to indirect taxation worsened a legacy of rising nominal inflation, worsening the recession to come.

In 1997, good intentions may again be swamped by an unwelcome legacy. In this case, the heirlooms are likely to include an excessive Budget deficit and could stretch to an overly lax monetary stance. Correcting these would probably not be top priority in the early months, perhaps until the strain hits sterling. Labour will also have a steep learning curve and is likely to make early mistakes it will have to correct later.

Under a Blair government, the supposed law that Labour spends more, taxes more and gets into fiscal trouble should be repealed. Murphy's law will still be in force. It is even possible that Labour will repeat a mistake of 1965,

when tax measures designed to curb dividends, and boost retained profits for investment, cut retentions instead. Labour has wooed the City. But some top departmental shadow ministers have little idea how markets work: for instance that higher investment and profit go together in regulated industries.

A cautious investment stance may therefore be wise. Many small investors have a lot of their equity funds in high-yield utilities. Given Labour's promised levy and possible anti-dividend measures, sentiment is likely to desert such domestic stocks in favour of multinationals as the election approaches. If you want to lighten holdings, do it early. The same applies to perceived losers from a minimum wage, such as pub and hotel groups, whatever the reality.

Strategists at brokers BZW are already looking ahead to the phase of the economic cycle when cash is king and it pays to invest in companies with strong cash flow rather than cyclical recovery or growth stocks. The private sector has moved into financial deficit after four years of repaying debt. As BZW admits, it is premature to invest defensively. You still want growth as well as strong internal finances. On the surface, that applies even more if politics unduly prolong short-term growth policies. But retribution would then be worse.

Strong cash generators in growth industries are also a good bet if Labour acts against dividends and takeovers. But investors should be more wary of political accident than Labour policies.

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Unit-linked clients miss takeover bonus

Marianne Curphey on winners and losers among Clerical Medical clients as the Halifax snaps up the life insurer

Within six weeks, Clerical Medical policyholders will discover how much they will gain from the £800 million takeover of their life insurer by the Halifax Building Society.

However, one category of policyholders will be excluded from the special bonus payout. They are the tens of thousands of savers with unit-linked policies who cannot even voice displeasure by voting against the deal, because they are not entitled to vote. They are barred by the arcane rules of mutual organisations such as Clerical Medical, which say that only with-profits policyholders have a stake in the business and the right to vote.

They will not receive payouts because they are deemed not to have taken a share of the risk — Clerical Medical has grown and they have not provided capital for its expansion.

Instead, their contributions have been pooled to buy units that are kept separate from the

main fund. Although they have been charged expenses to cover the cost of running the fund, their contributions, or so the argument runs, have not helped to bring in new business.

Douglas Claisse, deputy chief executive of Clerical Medical, said that only policyholders with unit-linked policies or ordinary with-profits funds would have voting rights and share in the payout.

He said: "The Halifax is taking over Clerical Medical, and the with-profits policyholders who are members of the mutual are being compensated for losing their membership rights. Unit-linked policyholders are not affected."

However, many unit-linked policyholders who have invested in the mutual feel that they are being short-changed.

Katie Knapton, a Times reader who works at Cambridge University and runs a society for Cambridge graduates, believes the distinction is unfair. "It has never been

explained to unit-linked policyholders in detail why they have been excluded from the payout, since many of them have made contributions for a number of years," she said.

Roman Cizdyn, an insurance analyst with Merrill Lynch, agrees. Unit-linked policyholders might, in theory, have a case for challenging their exclusion from the special bonuses if they were sold the product by a member of a direct sales force who could have advised them to opt for a with-profits policy, he says.

Mike Wadsworth, an actuary with Watson Wyatt, the accountancy firm, said that if unit-linked policyholders were to receive a share of the profits of the organisation, a buyer might decide to reward them when the deal goes through as a sweetener.

Industry figures show that with-profits and unit-linked policies are sold in roughly equal numbers in the UK, although when financial markets are rising, unit-linked policies are popular because they take advantage of investment returns.

General Accident, which bought the life company Provi-

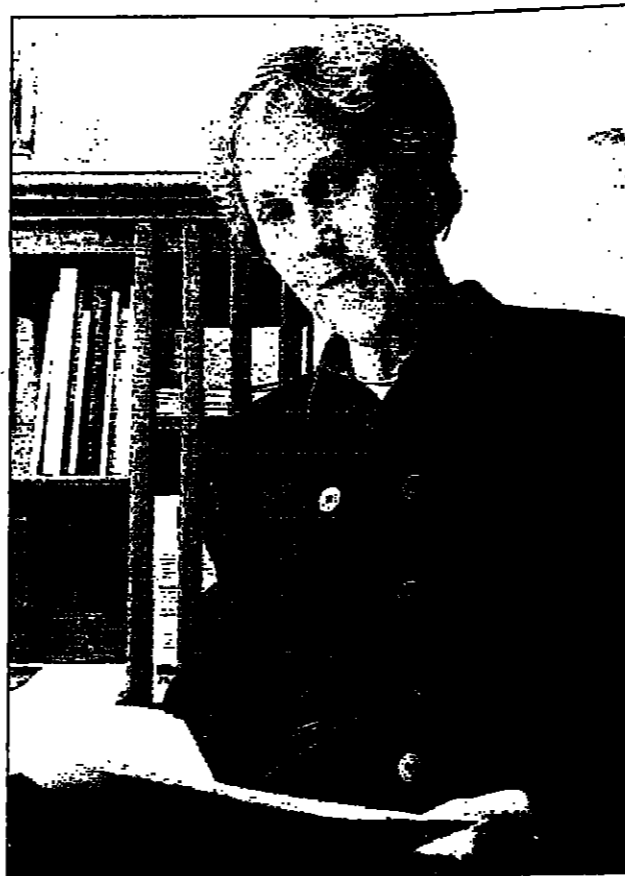
dent Mutual last year, will pay bonuses of about £100 to its 250,000 with-profits policyholders, but nothing to its 50,000 unit-linked members.

Mike Urmston, assistant general manager and chief actuary of General Accident, says that only with-profits policyholders are being rewarded because, historically, they have provided the capital to make the business grow.

"Unit-linked policyholders only benefit from a takeover if the management charges on their funds are reduced or frozen," he said. "We have guaranteed that expenses for Provident Mutual savers will not rise for five years. With-profits premiums go into the reserves, which the company can use to finance new business."

Clerical Medical has guaranteed that expenses, which are reviewed annually, will rise in line with the Retail Price Index and not above it for at least five years. At present, the average effect of charges on a fund's performance is equivalent to an annual 1 per cent yield cut.

For most with-profits policyholders, Clerical Medical will pay an enhanced terminal bonus (an extra payment distributed at the end of the policy's



Katie Knapton considers policy distinctions unfair

life) plus a one-off bonus (equivalent to the special annual bonus) every December for the next three years. The policy must have been in force at midnight on March 22 and still be running at midnight on December 31, 1996. Mr Claisse estimates this will be worth an average £2,172 to someone who has held a £30,000 policy for 15 years.

Savers whose with-profits

policies mature between the two qualifying dates will be given the equivalent of the special reversionary (annual) bonus only. A small number of policyholders who took out their unit-linked policies before 1984 — the year in which the group changed the rules on voting rights — will also benefit from a payout. All other unit-linked policyholders will be excluded.

N&P explains why some will lose out

The N&P takeover now has to be confirmed by the Building Societies Commission. The hearing takes place on June 3 and members who believe they have been unfairly excluded or are otherwise dissatisfied will be able to attend in person or write to put their case. Written representations must be received by May 13. If all goes according to plan, the takeover will take place on August 5 and payouts will follow in September.

Who gets what payout can seem complicated to members, but the deciding factor is how long you have been with the N&P.

Savers of less than two years' standing will receive £500 worth of free Abbey National shares. To qualify, they have to have had a share account with more than £100 invested on April 28, 1995 and December 31, 1995. Borrowers will also get £500 of Abbey shares if they had mortgages of more than £100 on April 28, 1995, and continue to do so until the takeover.

Savers who have been with N&P for more than two years will get a larger £750 which they can choose to take either in Abbey shares or in cash.

On top of this they will get a payout of at least 7 per cent of the balance in their account, up to a maximum of £3,500 on a balance of £50,000. Two year savers will have to have had a share account open with more than £100 in it on April 28, 1995 and December 31, 1995 and keep the account open until the takeover.

The first named holder of a joint account will get the payout. If he or she dies before the takeover, the second named should get the payout.

Similarly if the holder of an account in a sole name dies, his or her successor can qualify. However many longstanding N&P members are angry at being excluded from the bonus, while others who joined when the takeover was first rumoured this time last year stand to receive £500 of Abbey National shares.

N&P said its helpline was unable to answer individual questions posed by *Weekend Money* readers for legal reasons. So *The Times* approached N&P for answers to some of the letters it has received.

Nigel Samuelson, Powys "My wife stands to lose a substantial bonus because I transferred our joint account into her sole name last October, a few days before the terms of the transfer were announced. I did so when my wife was seriously ill to try to equalise our estates. The effect is manifestly unjust as our savings with the society derived primarily from the surplus equity in our home when we moved." In a letter to Lord Shuttleworth, N&P

chairman, Mr Samuelson elaborates: "Last October, a few days before the terms of the merger were announced, I transferred my share in a joint account with my wife. ... Consequently as I was the first named, it appears my wife has forfeited her entitlement to any variable distribution. ... To lose in excess of £2,500 is a loss we can ill afford. I would submit to you that the first named rule in the prospectus is also against the spirit of equal opportunity as it discriminates against women. In my own case, had my wife transferred her share in our account to me it would have had a nil effect as far as entitlement to any variable distribution."

N&P says: "It is true Mrs Samuelson will forfeit her payout. [She will not qualify for the variable payout to members of more than two years' standing because she was not a member in her own right on the joint named account and has been a member in her own right on the sole named account for less than two years. Nor will she get the £500 fixed distribution either because she did not have an account open as a member on April 28 1995.] "We feel really bad about these people. But our branches were not able to comment [and advise the Samuelsons against moving accounts] for legal reasons. We did produce a leaflet advising people of the significance of joint named accounts but only after October 16 when we published the terms of the merger. The branches wouldn't have known any details before then."

Dr R. I. Watson, Sussex "I have been a customer of the N&P for some years, using it for depositing money against future tax liabilities. As luck would have it I went into my branch on December 27, 1995, and 'withdrew' by cheque a sum which reduced my balance below the magic £100 level. However, since this was the holiday period the cheque did not arrive in my bank until January 3, 1996, and the money was not actually cleared until January 8, 1996. It is my contention therefore that I fulfilled N&P's requirement."

N&P replies: "As soon as a cheque is drawn on a building society account, the withdrawal happens and the money is deducted from the account. Building society cheques are not like bank cheques and they can be treated like cash. There will always be people who lose out — this is in the nature of cut-off dates. The £100 minimum is specified in the Building Societies Act."

SARA MCCONNELL

Caroline Merrell on the Inland Revenue decision to change the treatment of educational trusts

Revenue gives parents a caning

Thousands of parents with children in private education will have to pay higher fees after a shock decision by the Inland Revenue to change the taxation treatment of educational trusts.

Many trusts are set up as charities which allows them to pay out school fees in a tax-efficient manner. Parents or grandparents can pay a lump sum in to a trust run by an insurance company or financial adviser. The trust will then buy annuities — investments which pay a regular income. At present, the income is tax-free. If the Inland Revenue proposals go through unopposed, this income will become taxable.

The Revenue aims to bring in the changes from April next year. Its decision follows a two year investigation by the Charity Commission into the charitable status of educational trusts. The commission felt that many of the trusts were set up merely to provide cheaper school fees rather than as charities. Many of the trusts made donations towards particular school facilities to maintain their charitable status.

Hugh Rogers, Charity Commission spokesman, said: "We are of the opinion that the trusts are not essentially charities."

He said the commission had withdrawn the charitable status of five trusts. The trusts are run by the School Fees Insurance Agency (SFIA), the Equitable Educational Trust, the Save & Prosper Educational



Good old daze: few worried about how to pay school fees when Robert Donat starred in the original *Good-Bye Mr Chips*

Trust, the Castle Educational Trust and the Sun Life Educational Trust.

Mr Rogers said: "Charities are not meant to benefit particular individuals. The charities can appeal against the decision in the High Court if they want to. We think that these organisations no longer qualify for this status. So we will simply remove them from our register. Our ruling comes at

the end of a long investigation."

Anne Feek, SFIA managing director, said she intended to appeal against both the Revenue and the Charity Commission's decision. She added that although the ruling does come into force next year, it amounts to retrospective legislation.

She said: "We are vigorously defending the case for existing clients. The plan has

been in operation since 1959. Many people will have invested on the basis that they will get the tax break." She estimated that the ruling could affect about 10,000 of her clients alone.

School fees specialists are unsure exactly what the effect of the ruling will be on the price of private education. But some estimate that it could mean increases of about 8 per

cent. The change could be particularly hard on those who have saved for a long time to provide their children or grandchildren with school fees, because the amount invested will be greater.

Geoffrey Harrison Dees, chairman of the Sun Life Educational Trust (Slet), has written to clients warning them of the change. In his letter he said: "Since 1952, Slet

has been recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue. For over 30 years Slet has been entitled to claim a refund of the tax deducted from its investment income in relation to school fees plans. This has allowed the trust to pay an enhanced level of school fees to each of our planholders."

"However, the trust now faces the prospect of being without tax refunds in future in which case the trust will have to reduce all fee payments. This will not have any impact on fee payments made before April 1, 1997, but it will impact on payments made on or after that date."

He goes on to ask clients to write to their own Member of Parliament to try to have the ruling overturned.

Ms Feek said: "We do not think clients in educational trusts should take any drastic action. Despite the more disadvantageous tax position on the trusts, for those who only have five years to go before the child starts education, they can still be useful." She said other savings plans including Personal Equity Plans, and offshore bonds could be more appropriate.

The Independent Schools Information Service (Istis), which keeps statistics on the independent sector estimated that about 5 per cent of the 500,000 children in private education relied on educational trusts.

An Istis spokeswoman said that the change would have an effect on the ability of parents to fund for the long term education of children.

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&P explains why some will lose out

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Cautionary tale of nest-eggs

Like an Aesop's fable, the troubled story of the Ostrich Farming Corporation, now the subject of an official investigation, is a cautionary tale. It would appear to hold lessons for investors, and also for the watchdogs responsible for investor protection.

The precepts for investors are simple, obvious even. But it seems that they are easily forgotten, even by the most cautious people. Perhaps they believe that the strict rules governing the promotion of investments apply to every money-making scheme, including those based on ostriches which were, as OFC, boasted, "the cash crop of the Nineties".

To ensure that you and your cash are not parted for ever, always be suspicious of a company offering higher-



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

than-average returns, especially when the company involved is not an authorised investment business.

The Ostrich Farming Corporation promised returns of 50 per cent plus, a figure that the most talented fund manager can only dream of achieving. As it dealt in alternative investments, the company did not need a licence from one of investment regulators. This means that, whatever fate it holds in store for

OFC, the outcome of the investigation is not being known, its hapless customers are not covered by any compensation scheme.

It could be argued that anyone putting the proceeds of a matured Fessa into such an untried venture, as likely to prove to be a turkey as a nest egg, deserves to lose their money. But this would excuse the lamentable failure of the authorities to alert the public to its concerns about OFC.

They should now be assessing their role to ensure that there is no repetition of the delays seen in this sorry episode. More than a year ago, the Department of Trade and Industry knew that OFC's operations were causing considerable disquiet. But they stood idly by, allowing the company to trade merrily on, attracting more than a million a month.

The very survival of the company installed confidence in aspiring investors who mistakenly believe that the powers-that-be intervene as soon as searching questions are raised about an enterprise.

It is, of course, essential to gather as much information as you can about an investment before signing a cheque. However, the DTI

possessed information about OFC that the average individual could never have gleaned. There is, for example, the identity of one of its salesmen, Paul Prew-Smith, a resident of sunny Marbella. His previous business, the Southport-based Fisher Prew-Smith, now failed, dealt in home-income plans. The official Investors Compensation Scheme has paid out more than £13 million to 1,000 of his elderly victims.

As well as keeping investors in the dark, the DTI would not help The Times in its inquiries over OFC. Let us hope that when it concludes its investigation into OFC it will not be so disobliging. Or we will be able to conclude that, although ostriches may actually not bury their heads in the sand, is a habit among regulators.

Timeshares use cheap loan lure

Unwary foreign timeshare property buyers may find their deal looks less attractive when they return home. Some mortgage brokers are promising families that they can remortgage their homes to raise money to buy the timeshare and, at the same time, cut their monthly outgoings. The lure of a lower mortgage can help to clinch the deal. Yet some timeshare buyers are finding that the rates offered abroad are lower than the rates they have to pay at home.

Within the past few weeks, the Office of Fair Trading has launched an investigation into one of the companies now operating in this field, the Mortgage Advice Centre, based in Leicester.

The OFT has taken the unusual and serious step of issuing a notice saying that it is "minded to revoke" the MAC's credit licence. If the Office of Fair Trading puts a "minded to revoke" notice on a credit broker, the company has to submit a defence before an adjudicator. Investigations can take several months.

The OFT moved to take action after dozens of complaints to trading standards officers. Most grievances

centred on the mortgage quotes used by the centre, which were faxed over to holiday resorts, while the holidaymakers were being sold timeshare apartments in Majorca, Minorca and Tenerife. The experiences of Margaret and Michael Fisher from Swindon are typical of many of those dealing with the MAC.

The couple were in Minorca when they were subjected to several hours of hard sell by a timeshare salesman who said they could reduce their overall mortgage outgoings, and still buy a timeshare worth £9,000. The couple were attracted by the deal. They were paying about £320 a month for a £40,000 mortgage on their home, which is worth about £100,000. The Mortgage Advice Centre told the Fishers that they could reduce their costs to about £230 a month.

Mrs Fisher, a teacher, said: "The company asked for a deposit of £1,200, which we did not have there and then, so we agreed they would take £200 off our Visa card, and take further instalments when there was enough credit available." The timeshare company took a further two instalments totalling more than £1,000

from the credit card. The picture changed when the Fishers returned to Britain. They were visited by a MAC representative who provided them with a remortgage rate quote which was higher than the earlier quote provided at the resort.

When the Fishers asked for their deposit back, the timeshare company threat-

ened legal action. They did get £500 of their deposit back, but are in dispute over the rest.

Diana Hanks, of the Timeshare Council, said many who had complained to her faced losing deposits of thousands of pounds. Ian Smith, of the MAC, said he was going to fight the OFT investigation.

He said: "The complaints against the company are unjustified. The client details often do not check out when they get home, which means that higher costs could be incurred."

CAROLINE MERRELL



Remortgaging victims: Margaret and Michael Fisher

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Investigators move on ostrich traders

Karen Zagor takes a look at the controversy building over the Ostrich Farming Corporation

The DTI may find itself even more embarrassed.

The Times discovered this week that the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City regulator, conducted

covered by the protective umbrella of the City regulators and are not eligible for compensation through the Investors Compensation Scheme. Meanwhile, investors do not

chairs, a chaise longue, the microwave and filing cabinets complete with their contents were gone. We were told the stuff had gone to marketing offices in Ollerton."

The Ostrich Sales and Marketing Corporation is based in New Ollerton, Nottingham. Brian Kitchell, OFC's managing director, is secretary and director of the New Ollerton company.

An action group for owners

Karen Zagor takes a look at an off-beat investment that is gaining in

Problems could hatch fr

It is possible to invest in an ostrich farm, but the Times has discovered that the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC) is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company.

The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company.

Early warning: in late December, The Times was testing claims of huge returns

International hunt for Ostrich Farming

By KAREN ZAGOR AND ROBERT MILLER

International investors are left wondering whether the bird in the field will be worth the hunt. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company. The OFC is a company which has been set up to sell shares in the company.

Egg cracks: by April this year, investors were worried

know how their birds are faring. Nor can they be certain that there is a sufficient number to go around. For the moment, the Official Receiver is acting as provisional liquidator for the company. Following a request by the President of the Board of Trade, the Receiver's job is "to protect and preserve the assets and financial records of the company" until the petition is heard. The SFO's involvement underscores the seriousness of the case.

Inquiries by The Times this week indicated that important documents went missing from OFC's Nottingham headquarters in the days before the Receiver moved in. A former employee said: "When we got in on Monday, the fridge-freezer, the coffee maker, two

Move to wind up ostrich farming company

Final act: winding-up nears is being formed by Stephen Whitmore of Wilsons, a Salisbury firm of solicitors, tel: 01722 412979. A tape-recorded message from the Receiver's office is on 0171 637-6605. The Insolvency Service number is: 0171 637-1110.

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Richard Thomson reports on the uncertainty plaguing American investors

Bonds fall prey to US market sentiment

You could hardly have got it more wrong if you tried. Jeffrey Vinik, manager of the \$56 billion Magellan Fund, America's largest mutual fund, loaded up with bonds at the worst moment. One day last February he poured millions into the market only hours before the worst single-day rout bonds had seen for eight years.

Since then, things have got worse. Something nasty is going on in the US bond market and Mr Vinik is only one victim. Bond prices were hammered again in March and yet again nine days ago. The yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond, which rises as prices fall, has lurched from below 6 per cent to within a whisker of 7 per cent in a few weeks.

What has happened is that there has been a sharp change in sentiment over US interest rates. Bond prices usually fall on the back of what most people regard as good news, and so it has been recently.

Figures showing a sharp rise in employment suggested that the economy was stronger than expected, which in turn implied a rise in inflation, which further suggested that interest rates would have to rise to keep inflation under control.

Bonds hate rising interest rates, so bond prices fell. That is all a radical change from a couple of months ago when everyone was expecting interest rates to fall (which is why Mr Vinik piled into the bond market so disastrously).

The sell-off has been so sharp that it has prompted comparisons with early 1994 when a sudden change in market sentiment over interest rates sent bond prices into a nosedive.

Some analysts believe yields could still rise a lot further, to around 7.25 per cent in the near future.

At the same time, the stock market seems to have lost some of its bullishness, too. The same fear of inflation and rising interest rates triggered an 80-point fall in the Dow

Jones industrial average last Monday, but most of the market felt confident that prices would recover almost immediately. They didn't. Instead they fell for several days, pulling the Dow down 200 points, or nearly 4 per cent.

To many in the markets, the stock market's fall was necessary to catch up with bonds. They argued that the traditional relationship between the two markets had fallen out of sync in the last few weeks, and if bonds were not going to rise then shares had to decline.

Indeed, there is a growing number of market operators who believe that the bull market in shares has at last ground to a halt.

"The market has been overvalued for a long time," says Michael Metz, the equity strategist at Oppenheimer, the fund management group. "The market is in for a long-term decline."

What is particularly worrying is that for the first time in a long time the fall in prices has been broadly-based rather than concentrated in only a few big stocks.

Most of the bears expect a setback of at least 10 per cent



Over there: Tony Blair's trip to America underlines its importance to UK investors

gest monthly inflow, was still slightly lower than in February. This gives great hope to the market optimists.

All that money, after all, should help to buoy the market. They also believe that, although worries about rising interest rates are growing, there is no reason for share or bond prices to collapse.

"I'm not sure this is the start of a major decline," says Richard McCabe, chief market analyst at Merrill Lynch. "There will be a continuing bull market because, although interest rates may rise a bit in the near future, they will fall again later in the summer."

The pessimism in the bond market, thinks Blood, has simply been overdone. "Bonds will probably go sideways for a few months, with yields staying between about 6.5 per cent and 7 per cent."

That, he believes, is the worst that is likely to happen. After a few months, bond prices will then start to rise as the danger of rising interest rates passes and the market's fears are calmed. The stock market, meanwhile, will pick itself up, dust itself off and start another rally before the summer is out.

This is a persuasive point of view. Everything depends, of course, on what inflation does but there is not much evidence that it is about to burst out of its cage.

Certainly, the Fed is unlikely to lower interest rates any time soon but it is disappointment over that which seems to have sent the bond market into decline as much as any fear of rising rates. If the bond market realises this and levels out, the stock market should also regain heart.

The timing of all this, as always, is hard to predict. It is probably a mistake to start buying US stocks or bonds just yet, particularly while the markets are so turbulent. A waiting policy may be best for the next week or two while the real direction of the markets becomes clearer.

Sooner or later, however, it ought to be time to start looking around for bargains again after the price falls. Happy hunting.

The market has been overvalued for a long time. The market is in for a long-term decline

on the Dow — anything less would hardly count as a serious correction. Last week the market made half of that decline, but a further fall could feed a crucial element of panic into the market.

At the moment, however, panic is one thing that is signally lacking.

In fact, if you look at the amount ordinary investors are putting into the market you might think we are still in the middle of the greatest bull market this century. A staggering \$23 billion poured into a mutual fund (the US equivalent of unit trusts) in March which, although the third big-

gest monthly inflow, was still slightly lower than in February. This gives great hope to the market optimists.

All that money, after all, should help to buoy the market. They also believe that, although worries about rising interest rates are growing, there is no reason for share or bond prices to collapse.

"I'm not sure this is the start of a major decline," says Richard McCabe, chief market analyst at Merrill Lynch. "There will be a continuing bull market because, although interest rates may rise a bit in the near future, they will fall again later in the summer."

Sting taken out of vet fees

THE huge rise in the cost of veterinary surgeons' fees means treating sick or injured pets is becoming expensive and a number of insurance companies have set up policies to cover surgery, kennelling and liability costs for animals.

NFU Mutual has just launched a horse and pony policy for riders involved in show-jumping, hunting or hacking. Unaffiliated show-jumping or riding club activities are covered within the lowest class of use and pre-paid show entry fees of up to £500 are also covered should a horse be stolen or die before an event.

The increase in veterinary fees means cover has been increased to £2,000 per incident regardless of the number

of claims made in any one year. This also includes provision for up to £500 of alternative treatment, such as equine osteopathy or physiotherapy. In addition to cover for theft or mysterious disappearance of horses and ponies, cover is now included for rescue, advertising and reward costs of up to £250 each.

Cover for personal liability has been reviewed and the indemnity limit increased to £5 million per occurrence — this reflects the current trend of high awards made in personal injury cases.

The policy is suitable for all horses and there is an optional extension for horse trailers covering not only accidental damage but also personal liability cover while the trailer is not attached to a motor

vehicle. For further details call 01933 22484.

□ The Association of Investment Trust Companies has put together a CD-Rom on the principles and composition of investment trusts, which is available from the AITC, Durrant House, 8-13 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4YJ at a cost of £22.95 including VAT. Information: 0171 588 5347.

□ Nearly one fifth of Britain's 22.5 million households are under-insured, according to a survey of 1,000 homes by Eagle Star Direct. This means that £20 billion of property is at risk. The insurance company advises householders to check carefully that their insurance covers the full value of their home contents and to notify insurers when valuables are purchased.

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Watchdogs show their teeth as the mis-selling saga drags on



PENSIONS GUIDE

PART

7

Helen Pridham says regulators are planning tougher measures to ensure justice is full and final

osity of these terms, plus aggressive marketing by pension providers, led to over five million people contracting out of Serps.

Two groups of workers who may have been wrongly advised to contract out were those on low earnings and people above certain age limits. The largest category is expected to be those on incomes of, say, significantly less than £10,000 a year, whose rebates were relatively small and who took out pension plans with companies that imposed high charges.

Particularly hard hit are those who lost their jobs or stopped working two or three years after opting out, before their policies had acquired much value. Some companies continue to levy fixed charges even when no rebate is being invested, so the value of the

small. For those concerned, particularly if they are low earners, the amounts are important and will be even more so by the time they reach retirement.

The problem with making redress voluntary is that the best companies which have probably not done so much harm will volunteer, while the companies which have really ripped people will not.

However, there may be a simpler way of dealing with the matter than calling for a full review, such as letting companies pay a flat amount into policies that are affected.

Philip Telford, senior researcher of the Consumer Association's Money Group, said: "We would not be happy with any proposal by the regulators which resulted in anything less than those who had been mis-sold a personal pension in place of Serps receiving proper compensation. But if another, quicker solution to the problem can be found than a mandatory review, then this may be better for everyone involved - consumers and the pensions industry alike."

"We would certainly be disappointed to see a repeat of the difficulties which have arisen with the review of pension transfers and opt-outs. We hope that lessons have been learned and that any potential problems have already been thrashed out."

Next week the PIA is expected to announce a range of penalties it will impose on those which it identifies as not doing enough. These will include reprimands and fines. Officers may also have to take out press advertisements setting out disciplinary charges against them.

PIA will also be publishing a list of companies that have agreed to waive their limitation rights, so that investors do not lose their legal rights because of the six-year time limit. Most life assurance companies are still extremely nervous about discussing what headway they are making with the pensions review.

One exception is Barclays Life. Nigel Jerome, who is heading up Barclays review

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THE TIMES SATURDAY

Sarah Jones

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Sarah Jones assesses the ups and downs of a popular investment plan

Step with care into escalators

Anyone trailing round the shopping centre with a toddler will know that as soon as you have gone up the escalator you have to look for the down escalator. Investors should bear that in mind when considering the ever-popular escalator bonds. Their capital may not actually go down the down escalator, but there are a few monsters under the up side.

GUARANTEES
Escalator, or step-up, bonds run for three to five years, occasionally longer, and offer an interest rate that is guaranteed to rise, or step up, each year. Interest is paid yearly, or monthly at a slightly lower rate. "All that's happening is that providers are masking lousy current rates with better future rates. In the sure knowledge that rates are going up anyway," says James Higgins of financial advisers Chamberlain de Broe.

Banks and building societies make much of their escalator bond rising to "an outstanding rate" of 9 or 10 per cent in the final year of the bond. They fail to point out that such high rates are more than balanced by low initial rates. It is in the final year that bonds often make a much bigger leap and allow providers to make grand claims. A bond can look more attractive because of a high final rate but averaged out, to take into account lower initial rates, and it is not such a good deal.

TAX
Rates are invariably quoted as gross but, unlike the riskier investment bonds, escalator bonds are taxable. So an average rate of 7.06 per cent becomes 5.65 per cent net.

PENALTIES
The main drawback with esca-

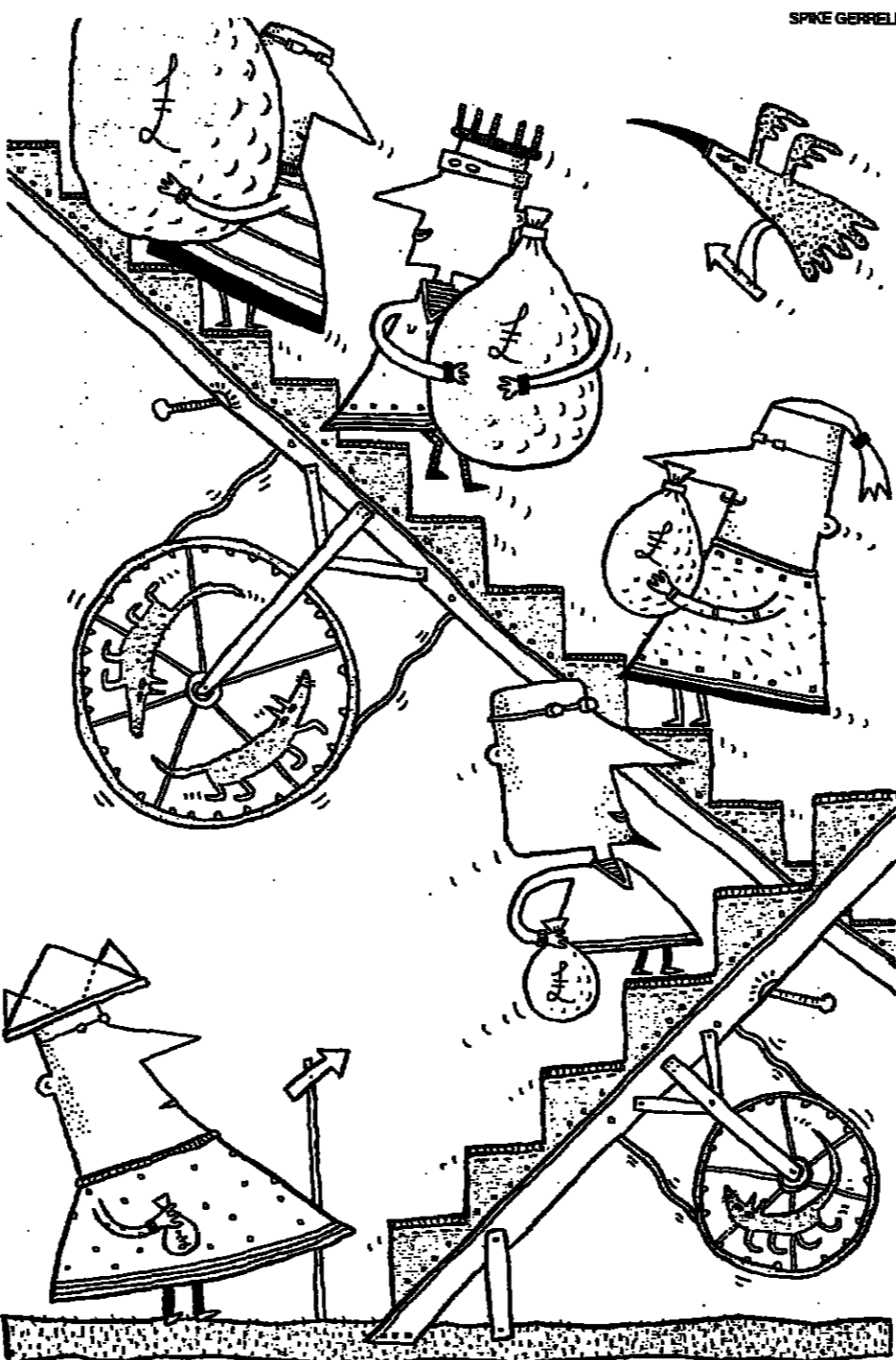
lator bonds is the big lock-in period. Withdraw your investment before the three, four or five-year term is up and you have to pay a hefty penalty. Typically £187 mid-term on a £5,000 balance. No partial withdrawals are allowed and closures are not usually permitted within the first year.

MINIMUM
Escalator bonds also demand a high minimum investment, sometimes £2,000 but more often £5,000. The exceptions are the Portman and Woolwich building societies, at £500 and £1,000 respectively. On average, the Portman pays 6.95 per cent gross and the Woolwich 7 per cent.

This week has seen the launch of a market-leading rate from the Cheshire Building Society. Its new escalator bond pays 6.75 per cent gross in year one (6.50 per cent for monthly interest), increasing to 9.25 per cent (9 per cent monthly) in year four. That averages out at 7.75 per cent gross (7.5 per cent monthly) or 6.2 per cent net (6 per cent monthly).

The minimum balance is £5,000 and the early withdrawal penalty is 180 days' interest at 7.5 per cent. "Past experience tells us that the take up of this new bond will be very quick," says Paul Brennan, the Cheshire's marketing manager. "People are uncertain about interest rates and are looking for guarantees, especially guarantees that go up each year."

WARNING
Once the term is up on your escalator bond make sure you do something with your investment. As with other fixed-term products, such as Tessas, providers transfer your money into an account paying a lower rate of interest.



Savings at First Direct

FIRST DIRECT, the telephone banking service, has launched the Direct Interest Savings Account which offers one free immediate withdrawal per quarter. This means First Direct customers can now get both a savings account and the option of instant access four times a year with no penalties. On balances of £1,000 or more the new account gives better rates of interest than the big banks. It replaces the existing 60-Day Notice Account and comes with a quarterly interest statement. NOP research shows First Direct customers are more likely to take a savings products. Ninety per cent of First Direct account customers have some form of savings against 68 per cent of all current account holders.

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	Min. Balance	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th Year
Bank of Ireland (GB)	£5,000	5.00%	5.50%	6.50%	7.50%	12.00%
0171 2362000						
Barclays Bank	£2,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	7.00%	10.00%
0800 400100						
Btm Mile BS	£5,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%	10.00%
0945 720721						
Cheshire BS	£5,000	6.75%	7.25%	7.75%	9.25%	—
0800 243076						
Coverity BS	£2,000	5.75%	6.25%	7.00%	9.35%	—
01203 252777						
Darlington BS	£2,500	6.25%	6.75%	7.25%	8.00%	—
01383 627727						
Hullfax BS	£2,000	5.75%	6.85%	8.85%	7.85%	9.25%
01422 333333						
Leopold Joseph	£5,000	6.17%	6.70%	8.30%	—	—
0171 582222						
Newcastle BS	£5,000	7.00%	7.25%	8.00%	—	—
0191 2449442						
Sun Banking Corp	£5,000	5.50%	6.00%	7.00%	8.50%	10.00%
01436 744525						

All rates subject to change without notice. Please check all rates before investing. All rates shown Gross but Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from all interest payments unless the investor has registered as a non-taxpayer. Source: Moneyfacts

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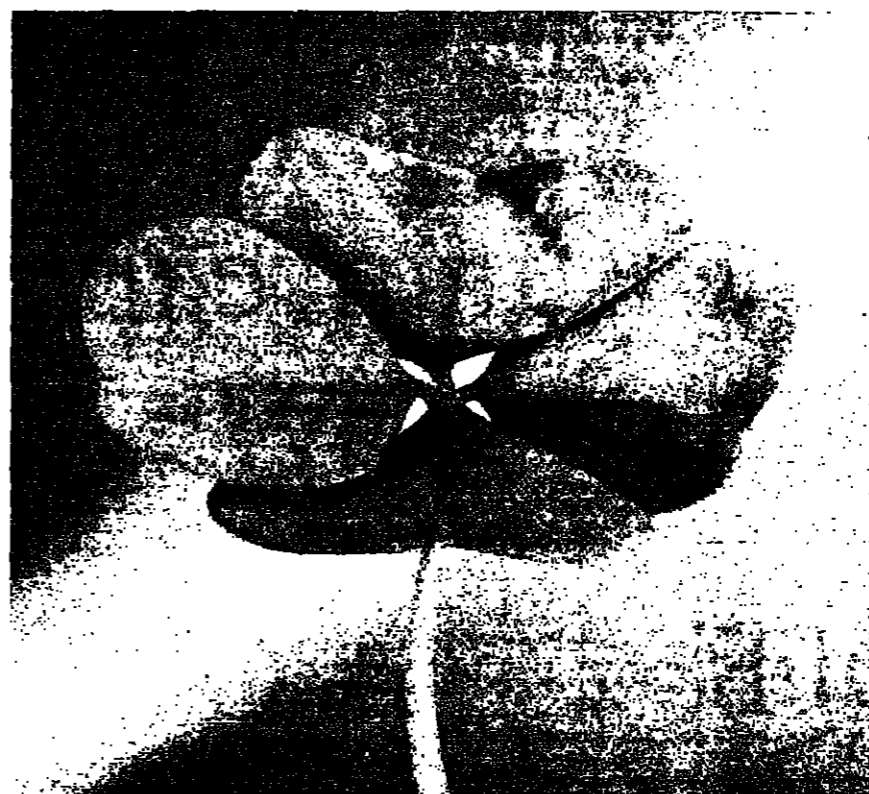
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Software to help with tax calculation

TOO many people are paying too much tax, according to the Consumers' Association, but because their records are incomplete they are unable to check exactly how much they should be paying (Marianne Curphey writes).

However, from now on you are legally obliged to keep a record of all income and capital gains in case you have to complete a tax return.

The Consumers' Association has put together a computer package called TaxCalc 1995-96 which claims to reduce the work involved in calculating tax and complying

with Inland Revenue requirements. On-screen prompts ask you to supply details of your income and outgoings and TaxCalc works out the minimum you are legally obliged to pay the Inland Revenue, and how much the Revenue may owe you.

The programme also lets you display and amend your figures, so you can judge the effects of changes in your circumstances. If you have a printer, you can print out your own Inland Revenue-approved tax returns and partners can even work simultaneously on two returns. It

includes an introduction to the Revenue's new policy of self-assessment and the CD-Rom version of TaxCalc includes the Inland Revenue video on self-assessment.

The programme also features the full text of a number of Inland Revenue tax advice leaflets on topics such as company cars, separation and divorce, and pensions.

TaxCalc also includes a comprehensive glossary and over 45 tax-saving tips. It costs £29.99 or £24.99 for members of the Consumers' Association and is available by calling Freephone 0800 252100.

A funny old game, but the club's done well

Sarah Jones looks into the pros and cons of investing in football

This week watching shares in football clubs has been as exciting as the players' performances on the pitch.

As Manchester United moved ever closer to the FA Carling Premiership title, and with it the promise of riches in the European superleague, so its shares added 40p.

And as Millwall sank towards the relegation zone, its shares took another dive.

Meanwhile stockbrokers have reported an unprecedented amount of interest in the Chelsea launch on the Alternative Investment Market. Football clubs are becoming more and more like proper businesses, helped by lucrative television deals, corporate hospitality and strong merchandise sales.

"More clubs are realising that they have got a brand with value and are starting to market that brand," said Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays Stockbrokers.

"Those that are doing well are in fact no longer football clubs but sports and leisure companies," he added. The latest float on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) — Chelsea — is a case in point.

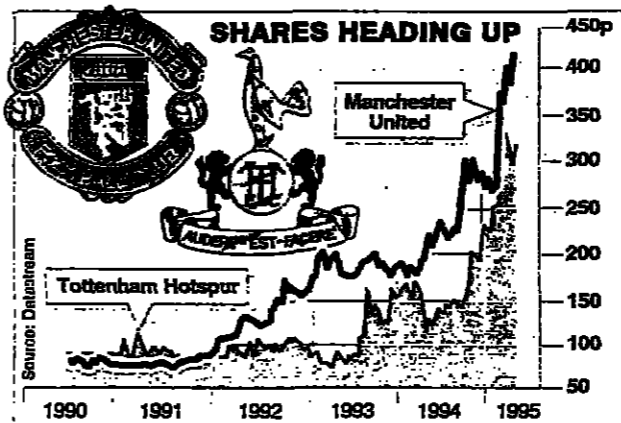
Investors are buying into not just the football club but Chelsea Village Plc, its parent company, which also has catering, clothing and hotel subsidiaries. A health club and gymnasium at the ground are due to open soon. "It won't be long before the ancillary activities are earning more than the football club," said Robert Ellis, Chelsea's stockbroker.

Mr Ellis believes that Chelsea has a bright future. He expects its new development complex to help the club to rival or even surpass Manchester United.

Stockbrokers are surprised by the amount of interest in the Chelsea



Share boosters: Manchester United's Ryan Giggs, left, and Chelsea's Ruud Gullit show on-pitch success is reflected in the price



a shareholding, the chances are that they will also attend games regularly and buy the ever-changing strip.

There are three clubs — Manchester United, Tottenham

Hotspur and Millwall — quoted on the stock market. Spurs' shares were launched in 1983 at 100p, reached a low when they were temporarily suspended in 1990 and then with the arrival of goal-scoring Jürgen Klinsmann started rising. They are now 310p.

Shares in Manchester United were offered at 385p in 1991. Within three years they had gained more than £3 and there was a bonus issue of four shares for every one held. This diluted the share price but it has continued to rise, especially as the season reaches its climax. Ten days ago the shares were 287p, now they are 346p.

Millwall's failure is a salutary tale. The shares

were issued at 20p in 1989 but relegation and repeated failure to get back into the Premiership, with all the revenue from higher gates, TV deals and sponsorship that the top flight brings, has seen the shares slump to 2½p. It still matters what a team does on the field. "The greater the reliance on football income, the more volatile the share price will be. But with a club like Manchester United, which is running as a sport and leisurewear company, the share price will be more stable," said Mr Urquhart Stewart.

That leaves all the other clubs. Many will be quoted on Ofex (the unregulated off-exchange market). Transactions are on a matched buyer basis through a stockbroker — if you want to buy 50 shares, someone else must be willing to sell them.

The smaller the club, the more difficult that will be and it is often a matter of contacting the club secretary to see if anyone wants to sell.

So should we invest in football clubs? "Only if you are a devoted fan," said Mr Urquhart Stewart. "Manchester United and Spurs have proved good investments, but with most clubs you'd be better off showing your love and devotion by purchasing a scarf."

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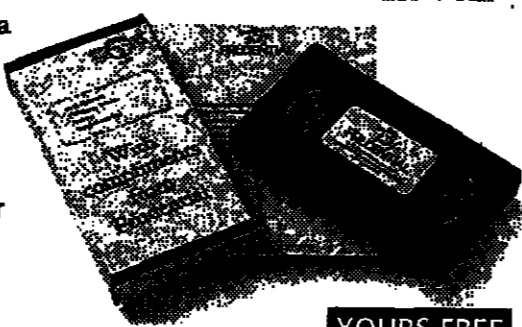
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When the system fails to offer an explanation for loss

From Mr W. Dorward

Sir, Your article on cheque clearance ("What a difference a day makes, Weekend Money, March 30) might be supplemented by reference to the experience of those who, like me, have monthly remittances sent directly from an overseas bank to a UK bank, in my case Barclays.

My pension is paid into the Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong. By standing order, I have a certain sum remitted by airmail, bank to bank, on the first of the month.

An advice is sent to me from the bank in Hong Kong at the same time and usually arrives about the sixth or seventh of the month, so it is reasonable to assume that the Standard Chartered Bank's cheque reaches Barclays Bank the same day.

It generally appears on my statement at the end of the month as having been credited about the eighth of the month, but, on the odd occasion when I have needed the funds urgently, I have been advised that in fact it takes up to five working days to clear and is not available for that time or most of it.

Leaving aside the valid question as to why it should take five days to clear a bank cheque, I also wonder who has my money between the time it is debited to my account in Hong Kong on the first of the month and the time it is

available for my use about the fifteenth. It must be somewhere. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM DORWARD, Waulkmill, Skirling, Biggar, Lanarkshire.

From Mr W. Farrar

Sir, This letter is prompted by the article (Weekend Money, March 30) on cheque clearance allied to snail-mail.

On January 11 I posted a £4,000 personal cheque from Pontefract to C&G by post at Fareham, Hampshire. It was in a C&G 1st class prepaid window envelope, with the address machine printed on the enclosed paying-in slip.

Case for Pensioners Guaranteed Bonds

From Mr O. Hare

Sir, I refer to Mr Shock's letter of March 30 concerning National Savings Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds. Even at 7 per cent (earlier this year, the rate on Series 2 was 7.5 per cent) the choice between them and gilts seems to me debatable, since there is no commission to pay on buying or selling (as there is with gilts purchased through the National Savings Stock Register), the interest is paid monthly, as opposed to half-yearly, and the penalty of 60 days loss of interest on encashment before the expiry date may well be considerably less than would be forfeited following an enforced sale of

C&G received it on February 21 (almost six weeks later) via the Royal Mail dead-letter office in Belfast!

The Royal Mail's explanation (excuse?) was that the address was partly obscured, but admitted that the delay was too long, the turnaround at that time being ten days. I wonder if the item just got lost in the system (eg, stuck at the bottom of a mailbag). Whatever it was, I am the poorer by the loss of interest over six weeks, for which the Royal Mail accepts no responsibility. Yours faithfully, WALTER FARRAR, 1 Barnsley Road, Ackworth, Pontefract.

the gilts before redemption date.

Yours faithfully, OWEN HARE, 32 Trafalgar Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. The Times regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Handout? Handout? Oh the 1½% handout

From Mr R. Ellis
Sir, (Revenue has eye on £17 billion handouts, March 23). When, in 1988, the Bolton Building Society merged with C&G and, in 1991, the Southampton Building Society was taken over, I benefited by a

misericord 1½ per cent in each case and tax was deducted at 25 per cent. So what's new? Yours sincerely, REGINALD ELLIS, 4 Ringstead Court, Ringstead Road, Sutton, Surrey.

'Massive handouts' means our own little mass: Shareholders will each get what amounts to seven and six of the old money. That's after tax



Alternative route to US rental car insurance

From Mr M. Millwood

Sir, The plight of Mr France and Ms Pilkington concerning their motor accident in the US and the subsequent threat of litigation for which Mr France is not insured ("The right route for US car insurance", March 23) prompts me to reveal to your readers a cheap way to avoid such problems.

While collision damage waiver for small and medium-sized rental cars in the US is currently \$13.99 a day or £61 a week, if purchased with your car company in this country it can be secured for £5.50 a

day through the Swire Fraser Insurance Company. The essential "top up" insurance, not purchased by Mr France and giving liability cover for up to \$1 million, can be purchased for £55 for a 15-day holiday from the same insurance company.

By using them for a 15-day rental of a medium-sized car the cost is £132, against £210 quoted by tour companies. Yours sincerely, MIKE MILLWOOD, 15 Bay View Road, Benllich, Ynys Mon.

Unit-linked loser asks why

From Mr N. Uberoi

Sir, with reference to the comment (March 30) on Clerical Medical's change of heart. I have had a 10-year savings plan since 1988, with only two years to maturity but am excluded from the takeover bonus as it is unit-linked.

I am a long-term customer who has contributed to Clerical Medical's wealth... as well as the with-profits holders. Why am I excluded? Yours sincerely, NEEL UBEROI, "Woodlands", Firs Road, Kenley, Surrey.

PRIVATISATION PERFORMANCES

SHARE	ISSUE DATE	CHANGE ON ISSUE PRICE AS OF 31.1.96 (%)
Amersham	February 1982	486.82
Assoc. British Ports	February 1983	735.71
	April 1984	246.87
British Aerospace	July 1981	494.67
	September 1985	137.87
British Airports Authority	July 1987	296.73
British Airways	February 1987	323.60
British Gas	December 1986	77.04
British Petroleum	June 1977	650.71
	October 1979	336.78
	September 1983	264.48
	October 1987	60.15
British Steel	December 1988	37.40
British Telecom	December 1984	174.23
	December 1991	6.42
	July 1993	-13.05
Cable and Wireless	November 1981	1487.50
	November 1983	546.55
	March 1985	202.90
Enterprise Oil	June 1984	98.92
Rolls-Royce	May 1987	20.00
National Power	March 1991	149.14
	February 1995	28.24
PowerGen	March 1991	193.71
	February 1995	38.92
Scottish Power	June 1991	58.33
Scottish Hydro	June 1991	47.92
Northern Ireland Elec.	June 1993	88.18
Regional Elec. Companies		
Eastern Electricity Plc	November 1990	306.25
East Midlands Electricity Plc	November 1990	155.31
London Electricity Plc	November 1990	158.57
Manweb Plc	November 1990	312.50
Midlands Electricity Plc	November 1990	225.00
Northern Electricity Plc	November 1990	146.25
NORWEB Plc	November 1990	
SEEBOROUGH Plc	November 1990	348.17
Southern Electric Plc	November 1990	245.00
South Wales Electricity Plc	November 1990	253.75
South Western Electricity Plc	November 1990	302.08
Yorkshire Electricity Grp Plc	November 1990	199.58
Water Companies		
Anglian Water Plc	November 1989	135.63
Northumbrian Water Grp Plc	November 1989	381.25
North West Water Group Plc	November 1989	
Severn Trent Plc	November 1989	157.50
Southern Water Plc	November 1989	186.67
South West Water Plc	November 1989	108.33
Thames Water Plc	November 1989	128.25
Welsh Water Plc	November 1989	227.50
Wessex Water Plc	November 1989	39.58
Yorkshire Water Plc	November 1989	155.00
National Grid	December 1995	-1.47

1 Taken over by Hanson @ 975p
2 Taken over by Scottish Power @ 990p
3 Merged with North West Water
4 Taken over by Central & Western of USA @ 535.4p
5 Merging with Welsh Water
6 Taken over by Southern Electric of USA @ 985p
7 Taken over by Lyonnaisse @ 1175p
8 Merged with Norweb to form United Utilities
9 Merging with South Wales Electricity
Source: *Privatisation, The Facts* published by Price Waterhouse
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Anachronistic opening should soothe fevered brows amid clamour for change

Limbering up for a season of uncertainty

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT IS an apologetic start for a potentially apocalyptic cricket season. Public clamour for change in the game is at fever pitch and the demand is for a tearing down of all things traditional. Yet, on a chilly second Saturday of April, anachronism is defiantly sustained as the first-class programme opens — with a game between Oxford University and Leicestershire.

There were years when this was a comforting ritual, as gently springlike as the smell of new-mown grass, but that was in less turbulent times. Now, in the violent backwash of a World Cup that concentrated minds on the inadequacies of English cricket as seldom before, there is something frustratingly footling about the season starting with an inconsequential and largely unnoticed shiver in The Parks.

The witnesses to this ancient and obsolete tradition will be the usual mixture of enthusiasts emerging from hibernation, noting their attendance like trainspotters marking down another engine and ruminating on many a previous opening day. The occasion, and the setting, are quintessentially English, which is the abiding dilemma for the proponents of modernism and revolution.

Like it or not, there is still a unique attraction about the measured tread of the domestic season. There is even something quaint, almost worth preservation, about the triviality in Oxford today, but, if quality control were imposed, little would survive.

It is the heightened awareness of this that will dominate the coming months, for all cricket this season is destined to be played in a studied limbo, rather like a decaying house with a disputed demolition order.

One of the standing jokes about cricket in England is that nothing ever changes, yet there is evident scope for 1996 to alter that perception.

Behind the familiar scenes, activity will be focused on two significant fronts — the administration of the game at all levels in England and the management and preparation of the national team. By the autumn, substantial streamlining should have taken place in both areas. If it has not, those responsible will have the state of English cricket on their consciences.

Soon, we are assured, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), with its unwieldy chains of command and its tendency to a self-sustaining parochialism, will give way to a new and better body, the English Cricket Board. The difference remains unfathomable to most, but, if it achieves nothing else, it must bestow decision-making powers on its executives to bypass the bureaucratic bottleneck that so impedes advancement in the game.

Simultaneously, and with far greater public appreciation, the working party chaired by David Acfield is trying to identify how the declining fortunes of the England team can be arrested and reversed. There is a small, select gathering with a formidable assignment: at the very least, they deserve the guarantee that their recommendations will be respected, by the counties who must consider them, rather more than the binned and pigeon-holed offerings of previous such committees.

In fairness, there are distinct signs of stirring in the shires. For too long, too many counties have concerned themselves with their local priorities even at the evident expense of the national inter-



Richard Shula, head groundsman at The Parks, spent yesterday preparing for the start of the cricket season. Oxford University meet Leicestershire today

est. Perhaps this is changing, judging by the encouraging acceptance of three points for a draw in the county championship this year, and of playing games from Wednesday to Saturday, without the ludicrous interruption of a 40-overs game, as from next year.

These may seem minor changes, but they represent a notable shift of thinking, an acknowledgement that all is not well; and it is by such finetuning that benefits will accrue, rather than by the apologetic blustering that has unhappily ruled since England returned home prematurely from the World Cup.

In a few weeks, the game has suffered the shambles of an aborted election for the

chairmanship of the selection committee and, now, potential chaos from a gratuitously over-subscribed application list of selectors. This has been accompanied by such a chorus of unhelpful and often uninformed rhetoric from the chairman and chief executives of various counties that fresh directives on those who should make public comments, and when, can shortly be expected from the disciplinary arm of the TCCB.

It has been a troubled start to spring, the dice have too high, the logic too low. Maybe, after all, it needs a day like today, in that timelessness, that country-in-the-city feel of The Parks, to soothe some fevered brows.

Wintry outlook at The Parks

THE bad weather that returned yesterday threw up the prospect of an opening day at The Parks spent watching the rain streaking down the pavilion windows, with intervals for the occasional watery pitch inspection and three-sweater forays to loosen up on the outfield.

Oxfordshire cricket may be discredited as a first-class force, but the counties show no rush to give up on their early-season visits. Opportunities beckon for young players, among them Gregor Macmillan and Darren Maddy, who will open the

innings for Leicestershire. Macmillan, who led Oxford to victory in the University match last year, scoring an unbeaten hundred, starts his first full county season despite the handicap of a hairline fracture in his hand.

Maddy gets his chance to establish himself after Nigel Briers, who stepped down as Leicestershire captain at the end of last season, was ruled out for the first two months of the campaign after knee surgery. Oxford are captained this year by Chinmay Gupta.

Mark Benson, the Kent captain, will miss the start of

the season because of a knee injury sustained in training. Kent begin with a Benson and Hedges Cup tie against British Universities on April 26.

India, the first of the summer's touring teams, continued their indifferent one-day form yesterday with a 38-run defeat by Pakistan in the opening match of the Sharjah one-day tournament.

Aamir Sohail, leading Pakistan in the absence of the injured Wasim Akram, laid the foundation for his side's victory with a century off 127 balls, his fifth hundred in limited-overs internationals.

Britain fail to learn lessons of defeats on world stage

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

GREAT Britain's ice hockey players had a rest from world championship competition here yesterday, although they did practise. The need to eliminate unnecessary penalties when they face Poland and Holland today and tomorrow should have been their priority.

After another rest day on Monday, Britain face Japan on Tuesday and, to survive in pool B, must win at least two of these three games. It was interesting that, after their 6-1 loss to Latvia, the Japan coaching staff said that they were satisfied with their team's performance and described it as a learning experience.

So far, Britain appear to have learnt nothing and the lack of discipline in the first two games has cost them dear. In those games, opponents have been given 17 power plays and seven of the 13 goals conceded have come with a Britain player in the penalty box.

The average age of the squad is another factor in the disappointing performances and Peter Woods, the coach, chose to play Paul Dixon, 22, rather than Terry Kurtenbach, 33, in the final period of the game against Switzerland.

It is time that some attention was paid to the future and room must be found in the squad for talented young British-born and trained players rather than ageing Canadians, many of whom are only in Britain because they were not good enough to forge a significant career in Canada.

The future of the domestic game continues to be clouded in uncertainty, but it could become clearer after a meeting in Blackpool this weekend, that will be attended by those clubs not in the proposed Super League.

The Super League is back to seven teams with the addition of Ayr, but exactly when their 3,000-seat Centrum will be ready seems to be yet another unknown factor. After ten years of stability, British ice hockey seems not to know where exactly it is going and some positive news is overdue.

Coaches in collision with forces of law and order

I THINK, as sporting assaults go, that one policeman equals two referees, so I had better give these stories equal billing. The policeman was allegedly assaulted by the coach of Real Betis football team in Spain; the referees by the coach of Lethbridge Hurricanes ice hockey team in Canada (so they do notice such things out there).

First to Spain, where Lorenzo Serra Ferrer, the Real Betis team coach, was given a parking ticket by a policeman who supported their city rivals, Sevilla. Ferrer reacted angrily, and was locked up for four hours, accused of kicking the copper; the coach denies it. "The whole incident is because of the pain of our 21-point advantage over Sevilla," Manuel Ruiz de Lopera, the Real Betis owner, said. He said that the policeman was responsible for the fact that Real Betis dropped a couple of points by drawing 2-2 with Racing Santander last weekend. Incidentally, Diego himself was once briefly a Sevilla player; he was given a speeding ticket by a policeman who supported Real Betis.

Meanwhile, up in moose country, Bryan Maxwell, coach of the Hurricanes, was a trifle upset after two late penalties allowed Regina Pats to sneak a 6-5 victory. Maxwell took on both Brent Reiber, the referee, and Jeff Klick, a linesman. He has been suspended for a year and fined Can\$1,000 (£500). He has been banned from attending games until February 1997. He is also due to appear in court next month, charged with uttering threats. Herman Elfring, the Hurricanes' president, said that he was disappointed at the length of the suspension.

Lend a hand

No sign of John Major's cricket bat in the Long Room at Lords, but the baseball glove of George Bush, the former United States President, is to go on show in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Bush played first base for Yale in 1947 and 1948. He was captain, and the team won the National College Athletic Association Championship in both years. Bush played 51 games

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

and had a batting average of 251 with 23 RBIs.

Doubtful digit

Now for news of the most important single finger in the history of sport. Its owner is, of course, Shane Warne ... and the nature of the golden digit's continuous state of injury has become one of life's great mysteries. Now, Warne is planning a trip to the United States for laser treatment. "Definitely not a desperation move," Warne said; but he confesses to worry: "I want to get back to bowling my main delivery, the big leg

I hope it's just your poorly finger you're showing me, Mr Warne.



break. It is the ball I have built my game around, but it is also the ball that seems to have done some damage to the finger. The sooner it is fixed, the better. A lot of people seem to be talking about my spinning finger and just what is wrong. I have to say I have had just about enough of it all."

Price of progress

This column will not be taking part in the Flora London Marathon next weekend. The event, one of sport's instant traditions, seems always to have been with us, always the same, but this is not quite true.

The winning woman will get \$55,000 (about £37,500); with appearance money and time bonuses, it could be a great deal more. If Liz McColgan wins in a very fast time, she could be on for \$200,000. In 1981, the prize for the first woman home was a watch ... and the prize for the third place, feminists everywhere, was an iron.

Scoring again

I have not mentioned Pelé's vasectomy for ages. You will be delighted to learn that the operation to reverse it seems to have been a complete success. At the age of 55, he is to become a father again.

Comfort food

In this country, we have still barely scratched the surface of the true purpose of attending sporting events. In the United States, they are much clearer: sport is about eating. Take San Francisco Giants. They may not be terribly good at baseball — they are expected to finish bottom of the National League West — but they have responded to a poor playing record by going for the most elaborate menu in sport. Foot-long hotdogs? Fair. At what is now 3-Com Park, formerly Candlestick Park, you can eat calamari, grilled ahi, lime-scented pork and tomato chutney, fajita salad, and chicken breast and corn chutney in cumin-infused broth. I hope losing is good for the digestion.

Flag fatality

Now for a grim one. Recently, Daniel Tosques, a supporter of the Uruguayan team, Nacional, was shot dead at a football match. He was trying to protect an 11-year-old boy, whose flag was being stolen by Cerro fans. Now, someone has been accused of his murder: a 15-year-old boy.

King leads domestic challenge at Belton

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING, a winner of a team gold medal and an individual bronze at the European three-day event championships in Italy last year, will give King William and Star Appeal, her Olympic Games contenders, a final outing before Badminton at the Belton Pedigree Churn Horse Trials in Lincolnshire this weekend.

Belton's big, technical course provides ideal preparation for Badminton and the trials have attracted most of the sport's leading names. Lucy Thompson, of Ireland, the European champion, and Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the dual Olympic champion, lead the overseas challenge.

British riders include William Fox-Pitt and Ian Stark, winners of their sections at Brigstock last week, and Kristina Gifford and Charlotte Bathe, members of the gold medal-winning team in Italy last year.

King, whose first child, Emily, was born at the end of January, has barely been out of action. She was riding two weeks after the birth, and last month, won at Dyrnes Hall, on King William, and was third, on Star Appeal, her 1995 Punchestown winner.

This weekend, if the going is as good as expected, King will let both horses "bowl on". With Karen Dixon (Too Smart and Get Smart) and Gifford (Midnight Blue and General Jock), King has a chance of being selected for Atlanta for both the individual and team contests.

Todd looks to have one of the best chances this weekend with Bertie Blunt, one of his two Badminton entries and a winner at Belton last year. Though successful in one-day horse trials, the partnership has yet to complete a four-star event. At Bughley two years ago, Todd was eliminated after missing out a flag on the roads and tracks phase. At Badminton last year, where Todd rode most of the cross-country with only one stirrup, Bertie Blunt failed the final horse inspection.

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SPORT

SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

FOOTBALL 47

ALDRIDGE PULLS
ON MANAGER'S
HAT AT TRANMERE

Champion fails to defend his Masters title beyond the halfway stage

Crenshaw suffers cruellest cut

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA

SAM TORRANCE'S involvement in the sixtieth Masters ended just before lunch here yesterday when he added a much-improved 71 to his first round 80 for a 36-hole total of 151. Torrance was not alone on this score, seven over par and certain to miss the halfway cut. An hour later came the sad sight of Ben Crenshaw, the defending champion, walking up the 18th to the site of his emotional triumph last year.

Then he finished with a five and he did so again this year. But last year it was good enough to give him a one-stroke victory over Davis Love III, whereas this year all that remained was for him to head to the clubhouse and kick his heels for two days before he could perform the ceremonial role of putting the green jacket on the shoulders of the winner this year and congratulating him in front of millions of television viewers. Crenshaw's rounds were 77 and 74.

"Not to play your best golf here after winning is very, very disappointing," Crenshaw said. "I played some really good holes and some very poor ones. As champion you are expected to do all you can but the ball has got to run for you. I am going to be an innocent bystander for the next couple of days."

Torrance's first round was what did the damage that was ultimately to prevent him playing the last two rounds for the first time in his three appearances in this event. "After that I wanted to go into a corner, have a beer and sulk," Torrance said. "But my Dad told me to get out on the practice ground and I am glad I did."

Torrance said the wind was "wicked". It got up overnight to turn a course that Greg Norman and Phil Mickelson had flattened, with a 63 and 65 respectively on Thursday, a day when 32 of the 93 competing golfers broke par, into one that barred its teeth yesterday. The 12th proved a terror. Crenshaw had a six there after a gust of wind got up just as he hit his tee shot and blew it 30 yards left.

The wind made both the par fives on the homeward half much more difficult and even as early as lunchtime it became clear that there would be no rounds containing nine birdies, as Norman's had the previous day. Almost without exception the early finishers reeled off the course grateful to



Lyle tracks the progress of his tee shot at the 4th hole during his second round of 74 in the Masters at Augusta yesterday. Photograph: Stephen Munday/Allsport

SCORES FROM AUGUSTA

United States unless stated, par 72
Early second-round
141: C. Pavin 75 69
145: J. Furyk 75 70, B. Langer (Ger) 75 70,
T. Lehman 75 70
146: P. Couples 78 68; L. Mize 75 71
147: T. Watson 75 72
149: S. Snicker 80 69, S. Lyle 75 74
150: N. Lancaster 76 74; T. Woods 75 75
151: S. Torrance (GB) 80 71; B. Crenshaw
77 74; S. Higashi (Japan) 76 75, E.
Dougherty 76 75; K. Triplett 76 75
152: J. Heron 76 76; K. Perry 75 77, T. Kite
75 77
153: W. Austin 79 74; D. Edwards 79 74; C.
Rocco (It) 79 75; B. Bryant 78 75
154: B. Mayfair 77 77
155: S. Elkington (Aus) 76 79, B.
Hamminger 76 79; G. Sherry (GB) 78 77
157: I. Baker-Finch (Aus) 78 79

158: C. Wollmann 79 79
160: G. Maruza 79 81; J. Courville 78 82;
C. Coady 82 78; M. McCumber 78 82
166: D. Ford 81 68
The leading 44 scores and ties plus
players within 10 shots of the leader
qualify for the final rounds
First-round
68: G. Norman (Aus) 68; P. Mickelson 67;
B. Tivy 58; H. Hoch 68; L. Janzen 69; D.
Gilford (GB); B. Faxon; N. Faldo (GB); S.
Simpsen; V. Singh (Ind) 70; P. Adinger; S.
McCann; R. Floyd; D. Frost (SA); J.
Gallagher Jr.; J. Nicklaus; J. Hiest 71; T.
Aron; J. Maggari; F. Nodda (It); M. Price
(Zim); S. Lowery; B. Gossion; B. Estes; M.
Calacavochia; J. Huston; F. Funk; J. Daly; C.
Strange; E. Els (SA); M. Ozaki (Japan); L.
Roberts 72; T. Tryba; H. Sutton; D. Waldorf;

M. Brooks; D. Love III; C. Montgomerie
(GB); M. O'Meara; I. Woodsam (GB); J.
Leonard 73; S. Ballesteros (Esp); G. Player
(SA); M. Campbell (NZ); A. Capps (Ger); C.
Scherer; D. Duval 74; D. A. Weir; J. J.
Stanton; A. Palmer; M. Roe (GB); F.
Stankovic; P. Coydos; P. Stewart; F.
Zoeller; H. Irwin 75; G. Brewer; B. Casser;
T. Kite; L. Mize; S. Lyle (GB); K. Perry; J.
Weston; T. Woods; B. Langer; G. Lyle;
Lehman; C. Pavin; J. Furyk 76; K. Triplett; E.
Dougherty; N. Lancaster; J. Heron; B.
Hamminger; S. Elkington; S. Higashi (Japan);
77: B. Mayfair; B. Crenshaw; 78: S. Bryant;
M. McCumber; I. Baker-Finch; C. Rocco;
J. Courville; G. Sherry; F. Couples 78;
J. Maruza; C. Wollmann; W. Austin; D.
Edwards 80; S. Torrance; S. Snicker 81;
D. Ford 82; C. Coady
* amateur

those distances in two strokes. One shot better off than Woods, but still in danger, was Sandy Lyle, who added a 74 to his 75 in the first round for a five-over par total of 149.

As the day wore on there was no lessening of admiration for Norman's 63. It was one of the great championship rounds, one that he considered to be almost as good as his 63 at Turnberry in the second round of the 1986 Open and his 64 at Royal St George's on the last day of the 1993 Open.

"I'll be able to reflect on this for years to come," Norman said. "Every time I come back here I'll think, 'Boy, you shot 63 here'. You remember when you shoot a 63. You don't forget the shots you played and the putts you made." Amid the admiration for Norman's phenomenal burst of six birdies in his last seven holes it might be forgotten how well he played at the start of his

round. "I don't think people realise quite how hard the first five holes are," he said. "When I got through them with some solid golf and some good putts I stood on the 6th tee and said: 'Phew. Now perhaps we can do something.'"

By playing so well, Norman created a problem for himself — living up to his own skills. There have been only four champions who have led from start to finish at this event and the last one was Ray Floyd in 1976. "You have to keep the momentum going somehow," Norman said in the glowing aftermath of his round. "You know you're not going to shoot three more 63s, so you try not to let it get away from you and get too excited about it."

Mickelson's and then Norman's rounds brought the opening day to a crescendo. Days like that are rare at major championships and all the more special for being so.

Sherry departs, page 43

Bishop will attempt to bring clubs and union together

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BILL BISHOP, president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is to play a direct role in negotiations between the union and its leading clubs. But, in a fresh twist to an increasingly tangled plot, the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) yesterday offered its services as a mediator between the warring factions. The RFU's full committee met in London yesterday after deadlock had been reached over the degree of control the union seeks to exercise over the newly professionalised clubs. England's leading 20 clubs want more independence to run their own affairs than their governing body is prepared to give and, on Thursday, announced their withdrawal from next season's RFU competitions.

The entry of Bishop into the fray will bring hope to both sides if it diverts attention from the two personalities who have tended to dominate the public perception of the disagreement: Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive committee who has led his union's negotiating panel, and Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle United Sporting Clubs. Bishop said yesterday: "It's time that I did enter the talks. I was kept away to protect the office of the president. I can add some experience and feel for the game."

Sources suggest that the RFU committee has realised the need for agreement if a split damaging to both sides is to be avoided. Accusations of intransigence have flown thick and fast, but the differences

Gloucester spice 42
Debt to Orkney 42

are not so great if the clubs can be granted some measure of graduated independence which will allow them to run their businesses successfully in the new era.

That the clubs are in deadly earnest is illustrated by their search for a sponsor who can deal on their behalf with television companies; their representatives have contacted both Vernon Pugh, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union and also of the IRFB, and Louis Luyt, president of the South African Rugby Football Union, since IRFB regulations permit only governing bodies to negotiate TV rights.

An IRFB statement yesterday confirmed an approach to Pugh from the clubs but said that a meeting could be set up "only with the consent and in the presence of representatives of the RFU. If the IRFB is requested to act as a mediator or to assist in discussions relating to a dispute, it would be prepared to do so, but only with the consent of, and on terms acceptable to, that union. The IRFB can provide the services of its acting secretary, Bob Weighill [a former secretary to the RFU] or any of its officials."

Bristol yesterday confirmed that Garath Archer would be leaving them to join Newcastle next season, and launched a blistering attack on the England lock forward. David Tyler, the director of rugby, claimed that Archer had made himself unavailable for selection for today's crucial meeting with Leicester in the Courage Clubs Championship first division by failing to seek medical treatment for a knee injury incurred against Bath a fortnight ago, failing to train, and failing to turn up for contractual discussions with Alan Davies, the new coach, earlier this week.

TCCB clears Malcolm over criticism of tour

DEVON MALCOLM has escaped disciplinary action over his criticism of England's team management on the recent cricket tour of South Africa. Malcolm, the Derbyshire fast bowler, was cleared after an investigation by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

In a series of articles in the *Daily Express*, Malcolm claimed that he was verbally abused by Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, and also suggested that the criticism was racially motivated.

The TCCB statement said: "Malcolm has assured the board that in those articles he did not suggest or intend to suggest that the England manager or management had used language or exhibited behaviour towards him which was of a racist nature."

In return, the England management has assured Malcolm that it never intended to "cause offence or distress" to him. "The board has decided not to take the matter further," it said.

The TCCB noted Malcolm's previous "exemplary record on overseas tours" and that he "remains eligible for selection for England in future".

Dennis Amis, the chief executive of Warwickshire, yesterday put his weight behind Ian Botham's bid to become a selector. Speaking on BBC Radio Five Live, Amis said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place. Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit."

New season opens, page 41

Super League opens with scoring spree

Tries, tries and tries again. In the Super League, a try is scored on average every eight minutes. The first 18 matches in the new rugby league competition have brought 183 tries — unprecedented scoring, which is trying some spectators' patience and converting others.

Before last night's game between Warrington and Halifax, matches had averaged 58 points, compared with 48 points in the first 16 games of the century season. The introduction of Paris Saint-Germain exaggerates the points equation, but even subtracting the new side's 14 tries from the total try count, the figure of 169 still represents a 15 per cent increase in tries on the same stage last season.

The theory that tries equals entertainment equals more spectators is being born out by high-scoring yet competitive matches in many instances and a rise in crowds. It is the contrivance that the staunch traditional followers object to. That, and the remoulding, fancy packaging and new presentation of their sport.

What Sky Television, in its cover-

age, describes as "same game, different attitude" is half-true. In its short life, Super League has become almost a new sport, a cross between basketball, in terms of high scoring, and ice hockey, in terms of break-neck speed and the new interchange system, which allows six substitutions per side.

Fresh legs are quickening the game, while the now almost unlimited space at the play-the-ball — or play-touch-football, as it is in danger of becoming known — is an open invitation to attacking sides. With the weather still to warm up and pitches to become parched, the crumbling of defences has probably only just begun, unless improved fitness levels can bring about better defensive organisation.

St Helens, the Super League leaders, are the only one of the 12 teams to have conceded less than 20 points a game; at the bottom, Workington's defence is leaking an average of 52 points. If tries are so readily available, then the team that sorts out its defence would seem to stand the best chance of ultimate victory.

As fast and spectacular as much as the action is, an ideological debate is raging about whether it is actually rugby league. The muddled oafs are no more. Forwards no longer drive the ball up into the waiting embrace of an opposition forward. They are part of the seamless pattern, their distinction lost in the lust for speed. "Anyone even a bit slow is dead in this game," one player said.

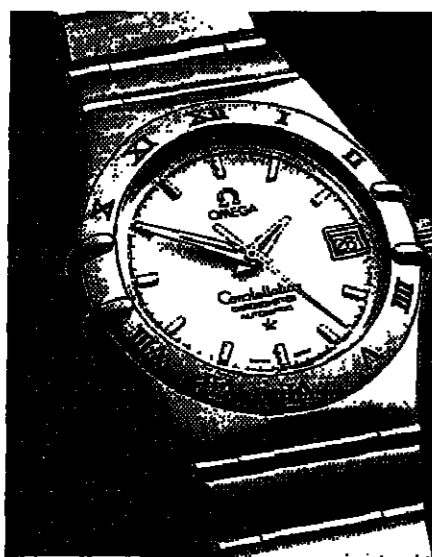
A comment this week by Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, that players are getting better is not so much the case as they are going faster and, in the opinion of Garry Schofield, the most skilful player of his generation, are becoming less skilled.

Schofield, who now plays in the first

division for Huddersfield, says in *Super League Week*: "I think we [defences] ought to be no more than five metres back from the play-the-ball [the rule is ten metres], then we could find out where the players of skill are, because they would be the guys operating the defences."

"Australia have tried various systems and been through the big score syndrome. I can't accept that two sets of players who are so far apart can produce anything other than the kind of rugby league we are seeing at the moment. It's all loaded in favour of the big guys, with the element of skill down-graded."

When the day comes again to play Australia, Lindsay said that a finer Great Britain side would be able to demonstrate improved performance levels. The question then would be: would they know how to defend? Sydney City's 10-4 defeat of Canterbury last week was described in Australia as the match of the decade. A defensive stranglehold is unlikely to be a feature of round four of Super League.



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ساعات سويسرية

US force sails for Liberia as anarchy imperils rescue

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

AN AMERICAN naval task force was heading for Liberia yesterday as a complete breakdown of law and order complicated Pentagon efforts to evacuate hundreds of Americans and other foreigners from the capital, Monrovia.

The task force is sailing from the Adriatic and will take about ten days to reach the West African coast. It consists of the USS *Guam*, an amphibious assault ship, the USS *Connolly*, a destroyer, and three support ships with 1,800 US Marines on board. "We're planning for a contingency in a worst case," said an officer.

As anarchy swept Monrovia, American troops had to repel marauders who broke into the grounds of the US Ambassador's residence. Daylight helicopter flights were suspended after at least one was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades. The Pentagon dispatched additional helicopters from US bases.

International aid agencies and the United Nations were evacuating most of their foreign staff, but leaving behind local aid workers, as the country slid further into chaos. Ruth Marshall, a spokeswoman for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said the situation was untenable after a series of raids on the UNHCR compound. "There is almost complete anarchy in Monrovia. There are bodies in the street. There is really wanton carnage," she said.

Another spokesman, Francis Kpatinde, said: "It feels bad to leave. But what can we do? We can't move around. We don't have anyone to speak to. All the leaders of the factions are in Monrovia, but they are just silent."

Aid agencies were unable even to estimate the numbers of killed and wounded because it was too dangerous to go on to the streets. Médecins Sans

Frontières and the International Committee of the Red Cross said that they were trying to withdraw.

The UNHCR was caring for about 120,000 refugees from Sierra Leone in Monrovia, along with another 1.2 million Liberians who had fled from fighting elsewhere in the country earlier in the conflict. A spokesman said that they last visited the refugees several days ago, when they were short of food, water, and medical care.

The refugee agency and Unicef, the UN children's fund, were leaving their 123 Liberian workers in Monrovia. A handful of foreign staff from the UN were expected to set up a crisis cell in the suburb of Riva View, which is controlled by the African Ecomog peacekeeping force.

One UN official in Geneva said that, apart from reports of looting by the peacekeepers, Ecomog troops had "not even



Families who fled Monrovia wait to board a US Air Force transport plane at Freetown international airport in Sierra Leone yesterday

moved their little finger" to protect aid workers.

There are about 223 non-Liberian staff in the country, including 92 military observers. Most of the UN's expatriates were due to board a

freighter in Monrovia heading for Abidjan in Senegal.

About 900 US servicemen are assisting the evacuation. More than 800 foreigners have been rescued since Tuesday, including about 150

Americans and a few British, but they were the most accessible. US troops now have to run a gauntlet of gunfire to rescue hundreds more from refugees around the city.

Until now all evacuations

had taken place from the embassy, a State Department spokesman said. "Now we're beginning to go out to points where groups of Americans and foreigners are located." A substantial number of foreign-

ers were reportedly collected from a defunct Voice of America radio transmitter station, and up to 100 missionaries and their families were said to have taken refuge at a Christian radio station.

African peace team in Monrovia talks

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

FIERCE fighting erupted yesterday around a Monrovia barracks where a breakaway faction was holed up with hundreds of hostages as a West African diplomatic delegation arrived in the Liberian capital.

As the peace team sent by President Rawlings of Ghana met Charles Taylor, the dominant warlord in Monrovia, his chief aide hotly denied that the fighting had broken out because Mr Taylor was bent on establishing himself as Liberia's President.

Heavy artillery and mortars pounded the sprawling barracks complex where Roosevelt Johnson and his largely Krahn tribal followers were holding at least 400 Liberians and 40 Lebanese as human shields against Mr Taylor's men — mainly descendants of freed American slaves — who have formed an alliance with the commercially powerful

Mandingo tribe. Elsewhere in the city looting continued unchecked.

A spokesman at the US Embassy organising the evacuation of foreigners said: "We are receiving calls all the time from people who want to come to Mamba Point [a beachside suburb where many embassies are based] but are unable to get here."

He said that no US military personnel had been sent on rescue missions into the town, but that the embassy security officer and guards from Mr Taylor's faction were touring "safer areas" in search of trapped foreigners.

General Johnson was accused of murder several weeks ago. But many foreign diplomats believe that Mr Taylor used the arrest warrant as a smokescreen in an attempt to impose himself as Liberia's President and end a power-sharing arrangement.

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Self-made men of North vie for Valentino vote in ballot battle of Milan

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN MILAN

BENEATH the fairy-tale Gothic spires of Milan cathedral, a gleaming red 1955 Ferrari Monza is on display to advertise a new perfume. Nearby, in the discreet elegance of Via Monte Napoleone — Milan's equivalent of Bond Street — Gucci and Valentino vie for the attention of well-heeled shoppers.

This is one of the main battlegrounds of the election, now a week away. Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon,

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

former Prime Minister and local boy made good, is fighting for the key seat of Milan Central. The businessmen in

the city centre look much like Signor Berlusconi on his posters: suave, tanned, mobile telephone constantly to hand. His main opponent in Milan Central also comes from the area. But Umberto Bossi, the tanned, bespectacled leader of the separatist Northern League, is rough-hewn by comparison. Like Signor Berlusconi, he has risen from humble origins; unlike the tycoon, who was a salesman and cruise-ship singer, Signor Bossi still looks like the local authority official he once was. The Bossi campaign buses

seem out of place amid power-dressed Milanese. Wagner blares from tinny loudspeakers as scruffy young men lean out of bus windows waving the League flag — a red cross on a white background — and trumpet the Bossi dream of a separate state: "Enough of taxes, enough of Rome, long live the Republic of Padania." The battle of Milan Central is vital not only for Signor Berlusconi's chances of becoming Prime Minister again, but also for the future of Italy as a unitary state. The 1994 election, fought with new

rules that were supposed to give Italy a clearer result and more stable government, produced a narrow Centre-Right majority under Signor Berlusconi. But the coalition collapsed after eight months when Signor Bossi withdrew his 120 deputies. This time the League is going it alone. "We have had enough of electoral alliances," said Roberto Calderoli, its secretary-general, in the party's down-at-the-heel headquarters. He denies the League is "secessionist", arguing that the media have misinterpreted

a policy of "autonomy for the nation of the North within a confederation". But Signor Bossi proclaimed the new state of Padania a month ago, defining it as the North as far down as Umbria. He gave an audience of shopkeepers and blue-collar workers — the League's natural constituency — a thoughtful analysis of the North-South divide. But he still whips up anti-Southern sentiment by accusing "those people in Naples and Calabria" of siphoning off "your hard-earned taxes". He also

pointed out that Signor Berlusconi has promised to cut taxes to help the self-employed, but owns the giant supermarkets that are putting shopkeepers out of business. Opinion polls nonetheless suggest the League's message may have lost its appeal. It was transformed from a fringe protest movement into a national force by the collapse of the established parties in 1992, after the Milan magistrates' anti-corruption drive. Lombardy, Piedmont and the Veneto still have a per capita income twice that of

Sicily or Calabria, and are enjoying an export-led boom. Northern Italy is one of the richest regions in Europe. Northern industrialists resent the fact that, because of the South, Italy is in danger of slipping into Europe's "second division" and has little hope of joining the single currency from the outset. Signor Bossi's antics and crude language no longer endear him to the middle classes. But nobody is writing off the League. It is still likely to win between 30 and 40 seats.

Hong Kong told by China to stay clear of politics

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

PEKING yesterday reassured foreign passport holders wanting to stay in Hong Kong after the 1997 handover, but issued a warning that the colony must not become a centre of political activity.

Lu Ping, Director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said Hong Kong people of Chinese parentage, including foreign passport holders, will be regarded as Chinese if they live in the city after 1997 — as long as they do not declare openly they have the right of abode in another country.

Those of non-Chinese parentage who have lived in Hong Kong for generations and have no other home — such as thousands of ethnic Indians — will be entitled to legal residence, Mr Lu said.

His remarks will reassure many in such positions, but are unlikely to stem the tide of those seeking foreign passports in case the situation here becomes unbearable after 1997. Only senior judges and a handful of high-ranking bureaucrats cannot hold foreign passports, Mr Lu said. But such officials have the assurance of a British passport at any time, which means they can truthfully deny holding one. Legislative Council members, too, cannot hold foreign passports, Mr Lu added.

Zhou Nan, Director of the Hong Kong branch of the

New China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy here, delivered a degree of tough talking to the same audience — a conference on the colony's economic future. Indeed, Mr Zhou has taken a tough line with foreigners since his early days as an interrogator of American and British prisoners during the Korean War.

In the only speech without an accompanying English

6 Peking uses the concept of stability to justify many crackdowns

text, Mr Zhou observed that Hong Kong is an economic centre and not a political one, and most people here did not want it to become an arena for political struggle. "Any attempt to change Hong Kong's position as an economic centre by any means will only harm its stability and thus harm its prosperity... more and more people realise that Hong Kong's stability must be protected."

Peking uses the concept of

stability to justify many crack-downs, including Tiananmen in 1989.

Only one speaker said explicitly that Hong Kong people are worried about the future, including the survival of a free press. He was Hiroshi Zaizen, a director of Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation.

Despite his stated intention to listen to the views of others, Mr Lu's week in Hong Kong will be devoted to making clear Peking's implacable position. This is understood here by those in the crowd of protesters who mobbed his car when he arrived at the airport, and by the leaders of the main teachers' union whose invitation to meet Mr Lu was withdrawn this week because they refused to approve, in advance of the meeting, China's establishment of a new appointed Legislative Council.

Chris Patten, the Governor, has also been barred. Mr Zhou has pointedly invited his deputy, Anson Chan, to dinner with Mr Lu next week. This continues what Mr Patten calls his "lunchless and dinnerless" tradition whenever Mr Lu visits the colony.

London: Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will meet his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, in The Hague on April 20 to discuss "matters of mutual interest, concentrating on Hong Kong", the Foreign Office said. (AFP)



The footprints of fleeing passengers left in the soot at the main terminal of Düsseldorf airport

Repair firm faces charges over German airport fire

FROM PETER BILD
IN BONN

GERMAN state prosecutors are to press charges of criminal negligence and manslaughter against a Dortmund maintenance company and its sub-contractor after the Düsseldorf airport fire in which 16 people, including a British soldier, died and more than 60 were injured.

Welding work has been established as the cause of sparks which travelled down ducting to ignite electrical cable on Thursday. The resulting ball of fire, which devastated nearly half of the terminal, which is one-third of a mile long, unleashed clouds of toxic black smoke which suffocated and poisoned its victims. The city's senior prosecutor, Rolf Chanteaux, said "all those concerned" with the maintenance work would be charged.

The British victim was Martin Smith, 22, who was serving with the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards in Münster, north Germany. He was on his way to Britain on a week's leave to visit his girlfriend. The private from Tamworth, Staffordshire, joined the army in 1992. The airport authorities have come under heavy attack. Passengers described how the air-conditioning sucked up the poisonous fumes and blew them out into the arrival hall, creating a dense smog. The authorities are blamed for the failure to alert the city fire service for nearly 30 minutes. "By the time we arrived on the scene, there was nothing we could do," a fire officer said.

There was criticism, too, that passengers and staff were given no loudspeaker announcements or information. Defending procedures, airport chief Berndt Rietdorf claimed that all the smoke detectors worked and the airport fire service was on the scene within four minutes. But a taxi driver raised the alarm when he saw smoke billowing from the building. By the time the airport fire service went into action, burning roof tiles were falling into the flower shop below the electric wiring ignited by the welding work.

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مركز البصريات

Mother defends fatal flight of child pilot

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

FRAMED by tousled hair and a baseball cap, the smiling face of Jessica Dubroff, who died in a crash while trying to become the youngest person to pilot a plane across America, adorned almost every newspaper front page in America yesterday. As her mother defended the right of a seven-year-old to fly, aviation experts mourned a victim of "bad adult judgment".

In a tearful interview on NBC television's *Today*, Jessica Dubroff's mother, Lisa Blair Hathaway, said she had talked to her daughter in the cockpit of the plane just before she took off on Thursday from the airport at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Asked if she regretted allowing her daughter to make the flight, she said: "Oh, I'd have her do it again, in a second. You have no idea what this meant to Jess."

The crash, in which Jessica, her father and her flight instructor died soon after take-off from Cheyenne, provoked a wave of national sadness. It also prompted a federal review of the rules governing

flying by minors, and angry comment on the motives of highly ambitious parents.

"I ask anybody that questions whether Jessica should have 'gone up' to speak to somebody who loves her dearly," Mrs Hathaway said. "I guarantee they would say she should have been up there. She had a freedom which you can't get by holding her back."

Mrs Hathaway learnt of her daughter's death in Massa-

chusetts, where she was to have landed her single-engine Cessna yesterday after a three-day journey.

Before flying to Cheyenne to identify the bodies of Jessica and her former husband, Lloyd Dubroff, Mrs Hathaway said her grief was tempered by knowing that, when her daughter died, she "went with her joy and her passion, and her life was in her hands". Anticipating the furore that has since erupted, Mrs Hathaway said: "I beg people to let children fly if they want to."

Within hours, however, the head of Washington's Federal Aviation Administration had ordered a review of the regulations that allowed a seven-year-old who could barely see out of the cockpit to be at the controls of an aircraft in dangerous conditions. Under American law, 16-year-olds may fly solo and children of any age may take the controls if an instructor in the co-pilot's seat believes them to be competent. Yesterday criticism in America's aviation community focused on the judgment of

Joe Reid, Jessica's veteran instructor and owner of the Cessna 177B in which she was killed.

Fellow pilots were astonished that Mr Reid, who was legally in command of the aircraft, should have taken off in worsening conditions from a high-altitude airfield. In the thin air at 6,000ft at the foot of the Rockies, the 150-horsepower Cessna would have lost 20 per cent of its take-off power, experts said.

Others speculated that ice pellets in the heavy rain falling at the time of the crash might have caused icing on the wings, drastically reducing their lift. The aircraft stalled and nose-dived after failing to climb above 4,000ft. A commercial flight due to take off minutes later was delayed until the storm passed.

"This was a publicity stunt that went wrong because of bad adult judgment," Arthur Wolk, an aviation consultant, told NBC television. "Her mother says she was an aviator. She wasn't an aviator. She was a baby."



Jessica's mother, Lisa Blair Hathaway, with her daughter Jasmine, aged three, before flying to the crash site



Jessica: "she was not a pilot, she was a baby"

Walesa wins his pension battle

FROM REUTERS IN WARSAW

LECH WALESA was granted a pension for life yesterday for his services as a former President of Poland — paving the way for him to leave his £164-a-month shipyard electrician's job which he resumed last week.

A vote by the lower house of parliament will also mean lifetime pensions for General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the former Communist military strongman, and Ryszard Kaczorowski, the last President, now in exile in London.

The net pension of former Presidents will be about £1,052 a month, the same as the present President's basic pay. Mr Walesa, 52, returned on April 2 to register for the job at the Gdansk shipyard where in 1980 he launched Solidarity, the Soviet bloc's first free trade union, which went on to topple Communist rule in 1989.

Mr Walesa is not hard up but the authorities are pressing him to pay taxes on about \$1 million (£640,000) he received in 1989 from an American film studio, which Mr Walesa says he is not liable to pay.

Tax officials in Gdansk, Mr Walesa's Baltic coast hometown, said this week they could not establish whether he had to pay the tax demand or not and passed the decision to the Finance Ministry.

The Nobel prizewinner had made clear that once a pension was approved, he would give up his shipyard job — he repairs electric trolleys — to devote himself full-time to politics.

Mr Walesa has promised to help the debt-ridden yard to attract foreign investment.

Kim keeps power in Korea poll

Seoul: The ruling party of Kim Young Sam has managed to garner enough seats in South Korean elections to put together a working majority in the National Assembly.

Final tallies give the ruling New Korea Party 139 seats — 11 shy of a majority — allowing it to look for partners to forge a majority. The biggest loser was opposition leader Kim Dae Jung, whose National Congress for New Politics ended with 79 seats, below its goal of 100 seats. (AFP)

Tamil boats sunk

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy sank two Tamil Tiger boats that attacked ships in Colombo port at dawn, and two divers were killed as they swam through the northern entrance to the port.

Freemen give in

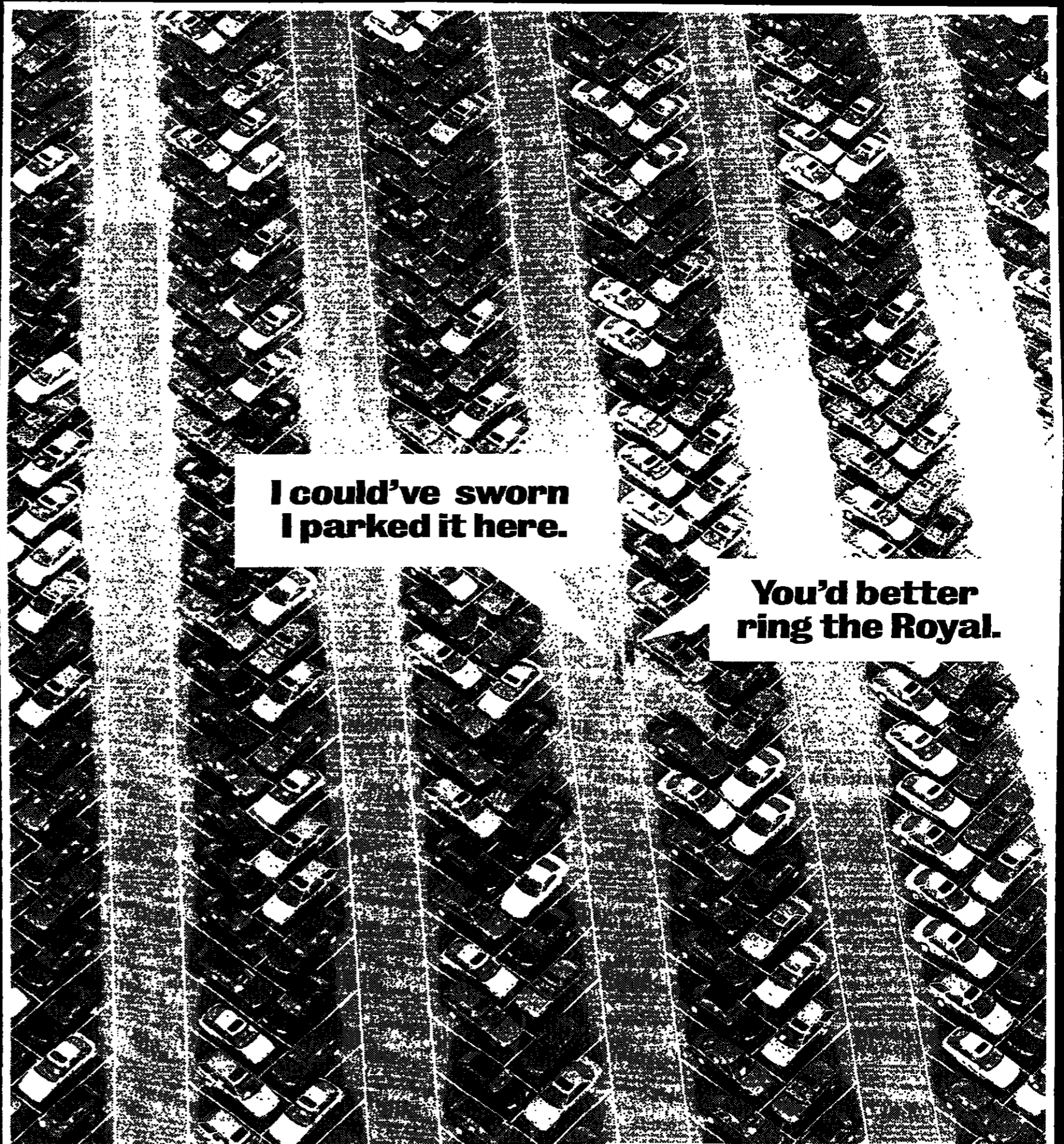
New York: Two of the anti-government Freemen protesters holed up in a Montana ranch — Ebert Stanton, 23, and his mother Agnes, 52 — surrendered to FBI agents on their 19th day under siege.

Well tragedy

Hanoi: Three people, including a boy aged 11 and his brother, died overcome by a lack of oxygen at the bottom of a 25ft well when they climbed down trying to save a chicken that had fallen in. (AFP)

Guru charged

Delhi: Chandraswami, a Hindu guru who counts heads of state and international celebrities among his acolytes, was charged with cheating an expatriate Indian businessman of £65,800 in 1988. (AFP)



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'Imaginative' Tatyana Yeltsin tames hostile press as President's campaign gains ground

Papa's girl charms critics

WHEN President Yeltsin announced recently that he had appointed his youngest daughter to help to run his re-election campaign, critics in the Kremlin scoffed that the old man had allowed his heart to rule his head.

As Tatyana Yeltsin recalled in a recent interview, the first response by senior officials was to try to placate her by assigning menial tasks — organising youth projects and women's groups — to keep her out of the day-to-day running of the campaign.

"It was very difficult at the start, no one took me seriously," she told the weekly magazine *Ogonyok*, adding that the Russian leader's oldest and most trusted advisers still regarded her as a child. However, six weeks after the

MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON



mathematician and mother of two forced herself into the re-election team, she has earned the respect of many in the Kremlin for her quick mind and persuasive manner.

One Russian journalist who met her said that the President's daughter, who until recently was employed calculating the trajectory of spaceships, was learning her new job fast.

"It was obvious that she was not a professional," he

said. "She kept referring to Mr Yeltsin as papa, but it was also clear that she is far more imaginative than most of the advisers around him and is an asset to the campaign."

One of her first initiatives was to halt the regular formal meetings between the Kremlin leader and editors of Russia's leading publications, suggesting one-to-one sessions instead. The move has contributed to the extremely pro-Yeltsin coverage in the

press, which only a few months ago was frequently hostile to his leadership.

She has been credited with attracting an increasingly wide body of supporters to her father's campaign, thanks to her broad array of contacts and the fact that she has no real political enemies.

It is too early to say whether Mr Yeltsin's favourite daughter, who has inherited her mother's homely looks but her father's stubborn character, will use her sudden fame to launch her own political career. It is highly unusual for family members of Russian leaders to become involved in politics, particularly women. In Tatyana's case, both Aleksei Dyachenko, her husband, and Naina Yeltsin, her mother, want her home to look after Gleb, her six-month-old son.

However, many pundits have drawn the comparison between Tatyana Yeltsin and Claude Chirac, the daughter of Jacques Chirac, the French President, who masterminded his successful election campaign and is now his press secretary at the Elysée Palace.



Father figure: Boris Yeltsin exploits his image as a family man

Women give lift to hopes of politicians

THE voting habits of Russian women may have a decisive effect in the forthcoming presidential elections, but predicting their tastes in politicians has always been problematic.

To pinpoint which of the candidates appeals most to female voters, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Moscow daily newspaper, recently asked women in the capital which leading politician they would refuse to share a lift with alone. Not surprisingly, the least popular choice was Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist firebrand who, in spite of a recent charm offensive to woo women voters, is still best remembered for beating a woman deputy in parliament last year. About 27 per cent of the respondents said they would not go near a lift if he was standing beside it.

President Yeltsin, who has been emphasising his role as a devoted husband and father, did better, with only 8 per cent of women refusing the "lift challenge" with him. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist front-runner, was marginally more popular.

Those who fared best were Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, Yegor Gaidar, the former Russian Prime Minister, and Aleksandr Lebed, the burly former paratrooper.

Tales of the Muscovite mafia

AFTER years of being subjected to Western police serials, regarded as far too tame by most Russian viewers, Muscovites will soon be able to watch a series devoted to the brutal world of their own criminals.

The new police drama, called *In the Name of the Law*, will be a co-production between

Nikita Mikhalkov, the Oscar-winning Russian director, and some of Hollywood's best producers and writers. The series, which follows the exploits of an honest detective fighting corruption, was proposed after documentary-style films on the mafia were considered too dangerous.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Mother suspected of Paris murders

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE architect, Marguerite Zakrzewski, found hanged on Tuesday with her murdered husband and two sons in the wealthy Paris suburb of Sceaux, became the main suspect in the case yesterday as police received the first post-mortem examination results showing that she was the last to die.

Investigators believe that the father and elder son were killed on Sunday night while the mother and younger son did not die until the next day. Traces of drugs were found in the bodies. More definitive post-mortem examination results are expected over the weekend as police check reports that Mme Zakrzewski visited Sceaux on Monday.

The bodies of the family were discovered by a school friend of the couple's elder son Adam, 16, who visited the Zakrzewski house when neither brother turned up for classes after the Easter weekend. Like his father Piotr, 48, also an architect, Adam was discovered in his bed, virtually decapitated. Both had apparently been killed while they slept.

The body of the younger son Arthur, 12, was discovered close to his mother. He had been strangled and hanged. The family were all wearing pyjamas except for Mme Zakrzewski, who was elegantly dressed. Police said last night that her clothing was without bloodstains and that her body showed no sign of struggle.

No blood was found near the bodies or anywhere in the house, which police say had been cleaned after the murders.

Spaniards hunt for drug case fugitive

FROM DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR

SPANISH Civil Guards were searching yesterday for a Spaniard who escaped from a boat chase for suspected drug smugglers which ended with a Spanish helicopter crashing into the sea, killing one of the crew.

The authorities in Cadiz said they had been unable to trace more than 1,300lb of cannabis which two men have allegedly confessed to unloading on a near beach near La Linea, the town bordering Gibraltar. The men — a Gibraltar and a Moroccan — were held after the chase.

Spain has accused Britain of failing to stop drug and tobacco trafficking from Gibraltar. Royal Gibraltar Police confirmed that the owner of a rigid inflatable boat who was arrested in the operation has been released on bail.

Queues continued to build up yesterday as people crossing to and from Gibraltar were subjected to stringent checks imposed by Cesar Braña, the regional Governor, after the incident. The Rock's trading community is concerned that if these controls are sustained — it was taking up to an hour just to walk into Gibraltar, and nearly four to drive out — tourists and shoppers will stop coming from Spain.

That would quickly set off an economic crisis for Gibraltar, which has already suffered from the reduced presence of the Ministry of Defence. In ten years the military's contribution to the local economy has fallen from about 60 per cent of the total to 6 per cent. Another 700 jobs are planned to go over the next two years.

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***Crazy for You*, the musical based on Gershwin's best tunes, goes on national tour**



■ BASE NOTES

Gloria Estefan will supply the anthem for this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta

When I come to write my indispensable reference tome, *Bad Nights Out* in Norfolk, I shall certainly include last Tuesday's dismal débacle. It had seemed such a good wheeze at the time: take the kids to see a "traditional" circus before the forces of political correctness finally succeed in expurgating all performing animals from British life. But, like most of my good wheezes, it proved to be a horrible mistake.

We entered a field outside Norfolk. We handed the best part of £40 to Chipperfield's Circus. We watched four youths do a skipping-rope routine that could be managed by reasonably sprightly pensioners. This turned out to be the first act. We watched a man attempt to start a cardboard taxi until his trousers fell down. The programme claimed that he was a clown. If he was a clown, I am the Patriarch of Constantinople.

Where were the fire-eaters, knife-throwers, sword-swallowers, death-defying high-wire stuntmen,

mind-boggling contortionists? Perhaps it was their night off. True, three glum characters produced a few elementary spins on a trapeze. But there was nothing worthy of an "ooh" or an "aah" here.

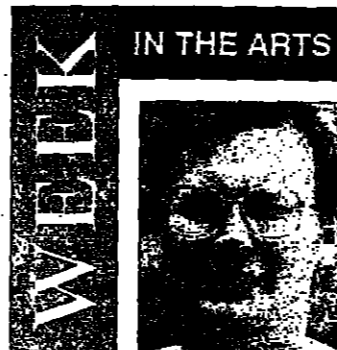
In any case, any audience reaction was drowned by a raucous stream of noise from a four-piece band. "At least it's live music," I yelled at my wife. Whereupon she shook her head and yelled back: "I'm not wearing a watch." Enigmatic woman, my wife.

What of the animals? A woman brought on a few horses and made them stand on their hind legs. A man brought on some oddly docile tigers. Guess what? They stood on their hind legs too. Somebody else brought on three sea lions and threw hoops at them. Sometimes the hoops looped over the sea lions' heads; sometimes they missed altogether. Amazing.

As a grand finale, three boys did wheelies on pushbikes. "I can do that," said my younger son. Not quite the gob-smacked reaction for which a father hopes after he has spent £40 treating his family to the circus. But a fair comment, I fear. This show had all the dangerous allure of a knitting pattern.

What has gone wrong with our circuses? You don't have to be very old to recall the era when Bertram Mills and Billy Smart toured the country with hundreds of performers: human and beastly. Now the British circus is reduced to this: a damp squib in a damp field outside Norwich. Smell of the greasypaint? Roar of the crowd? You must be joking.

Some claim that British circus effectively died in the early 1980s, when many local councils — encouraged by the RSPCA — banned animal acts from their



RICHARD MORRISON

land, alleging that the training was cruel. Clearly, the "breaking in" of any performing animal is not a job for soft hearts or liberals, and in some parts of the world the methods can be grotesque. In

Moscow a few years ago I asked a top Russian circus boss how he achieved the unique feat of getting chickens to dance to *Swan Lake*. His answer may have lost something in the translation, but it definitely involved saucers of boiling water.

British circuses, however, have never stooped to these horrific practices, and they claim to be victims of hypocrisy in a society that happily watches grueling equestrian events — or, for that matter, approves the politically expedient slaughter of 30,000 healthy cows each week. It is a fair point. But actually I don't think the decline of the British circus has much to do with the animal ban. The sad fact is that, as with practically every other physical recreation, the British taught the world to play the game but

have now been thoroughly outclassed by our former pupils.

Abroad, circus is considered chic, exciting, even intellectually stimulating. The Canadian-based Cirque du Soleil has redefined the form as vast acrobatic ballets. Russian circus clowns, who think nothing of interpolating Shakespearean skits into their acts, have achieved cult followings across the world. So has Archaios, the wild motorbike-and-chainsaw circus from France. In Monte Carlo, glamorous circus festivals are held under royal patronage.

In short, foreign companies are nurturing the circus equivalent of Disneyworld, while ours — those that still exist — appear to be stuck in Butlin's, circa 1955. Consequently, our best acrobat-entertainers are going abroad: that's the only way they can earn a living. Yes, I know that we have several small,

successful "physical theatre" groups. But what I am talking about are spectacular, populist entertainments, not art-house specialities. Are we really content that the country which produced Chaplin, Monty Python, Benny Hill and Peter Sellers cannot now compete with the French and the Canadians in the field of surreal visual humour? Good grief, I knew things were bad, but I didn't realise they were that bad.

So here is a populist challenge for the Arts Council. Let's resurrect the 200-year-old tradition of British circus, both as a vibrant art form and as a potentially huge money-spinner. The lottery is surely intended for tasks like this, and a little seed money spent on top-quality training and equipment would be quickly recouped. Let's put the "ooh" factor back into our cultural life. Remind the world that nobody performs better on sawdust than the British. And never again allow the Greatest Show on Earth to disintegrate into a bad night out in Norfolk.

What we need is bread for circuses

Only the alien is out of place

Brecht says somewhere that war is a weird physical field that turns everything in its ambit topsy-turvy. Courage, caution, honesty, trickery: whatever works effectively in peacetime becomes self-defeating in war. Decent people are transformed into monsters or behave like lunatics, and zit-high orange blobs from space are magicked into elegant young men who stalk about dressed like T.E. Lawrence.

All right, Brecht did not say anything about orange blobs. That is a detail gratuitously added by Martin Sherman, author of this quaint, diverting play. But the behaviour of the characters in *Some Sunny Day* supports Brechtian physics. They are human particles impelled by the prospect of disaster to demonstrate Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.

The physical field is Cairo in July 1942. Rommel is expected to break through British lines at any moment. Our embassy is burning documents, which is why bits of burnt marked "top secret" keep landing on people's heads. Jews are hunting visas that will get them into Palestine. Rumours abound, branding just about everyone in Roger Mitchell's fine cast as a Nazi spy.

None of them is that. But they are all acting as if their body temperatures have jumped to 104. Sara Kestelman, who pretends to be a Russian grand-duchess but is probably a Polish Jew on the run, reacts to a wasp as if it

were a doodlebug. Cheryl Campbell also spends a lot of time screaming and dashing feverishly about William Dudley's shabby-grand Islamic interior, only to recollect herself, and explain in vicarage-lawn tones that she is having a "mad scene". But then she has good reason for desperation, for her diplomat husband is besotted with a belly-dancer.

Emily, as Campbell's character is called, ends up sticking pins into a model of the dancer, while Horatio,

her husband, ends up ending Emily. He is played by a sweaty, mottled Corin Redgrave with a blend of subtle authority and self-satisfying humour I had not realised was in his range. In peacetime, Horatio is, as he primly says, "a novelist of at least minor importance". Wartime has turned him into a murderous monomaniac, comically unable to see that the wildest excesses of paranoia and greed are even mildly abnormal.

The play's message is that there is more in heaven and earth than is dreamt of in Horatian philosophy. English emotion turns out to be violent. And earthly emotion in general would probably seem remarkable to any visiting Martian. This is not mere rhetoric, either. Perhaps I am giving away secrets Sherman would prefer me to suppress, but here goes. There is a space intruder in *Some Sunny Day*, and he is indeed pleasantly astonished by human feeling.

Rupert Everett's Robin may seem to be a chiselled, laid-



"Human [and one inhuman] particles impelled by the prospect of disaster to demonstrate Heisenberg's uncertainty principle": Sara Kestelman, Rupert Everett and Corin Redgrave in a scene from Martin Sherman's *Some Sunny Day*

back Antipodean journalist, but he actually belongs to a species that can read minds, twist metal, and do other things which explain why Uri Geller gets "special thanks" in the programme. He is also sufficiently moved by hearing Mozart and having an affair with the genial young soldier played by David Bark-Jones to recognise that our race has its inner strengths too. It is a good performance, but a questionable idea on Sherman's part.

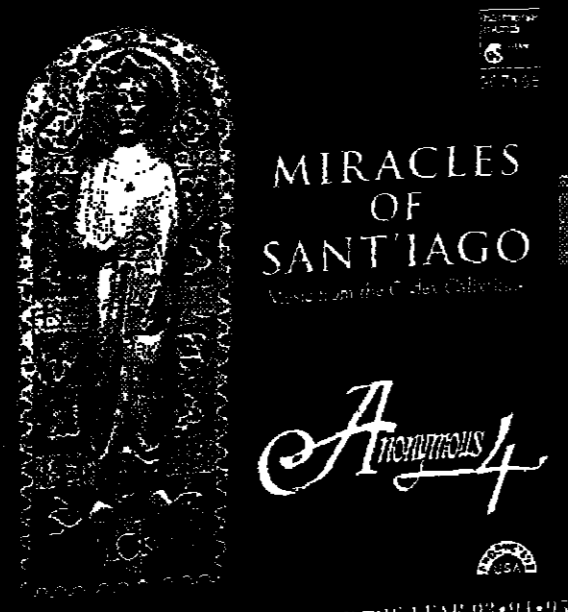
Is it wise to give a play so eloquent about human unpredictability a twist that lifts it out of the realm of the human? Does not sci-fi fantasy, especially fantasy that turns cutesy at the end, compromise what the play has to say about reality? The play left me in an accepting, upbeat mood, but I did wonder. I really did.

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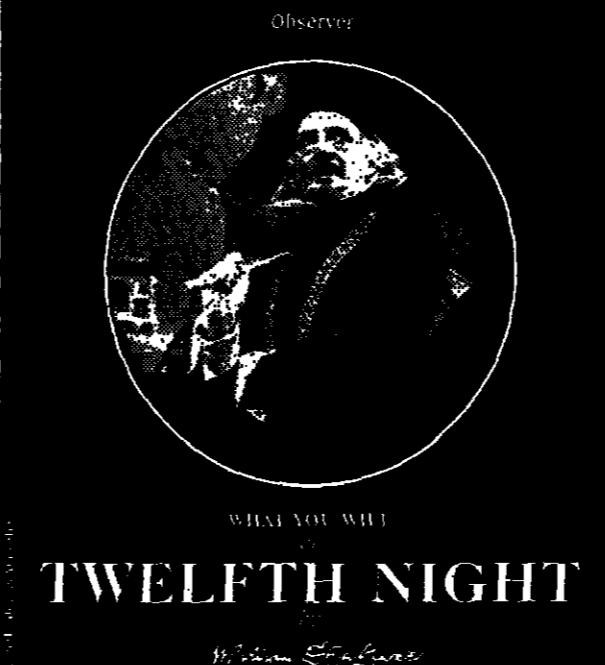
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MUSICALS

Back in his *Salad Days*, Julian Slade recalls the first performance of his hit show



RISING STAR

At the age of 14, Glasgow-born Iain Robertson finds that he is Britain's newest film star

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE

From Philip Schofield to Sibelius: see our new guide to top shows in Weekend, pages 12 and 13



ON MONDAY

Terry Gilliam talks about the making of *Twelve Monkeys*, and working with one Bruce Willis

Jeremy Kingston talks to Julian Slade about 40 years of *Salad Days*

Evergreen returns

Twenty years ago, *Salad Days*, the musical with the magic piano that makes people dance, was revived in the West End to celebrate the twentieth (in fact, twenty-second) anniversary of its first appearance there. Next week at the Vaudeville the fortieth anniversary (ie, the forty-second) is likewise commemorated, and perhaps some far-planning impresario is already thinking ahead to the year 2016.

Julian Slade, co-author with Dorothy Reynolds of the book and lyrics, and sole composer of the music, will then be in his mid-eighties. By that time he may be unable to move around his Chelsea basement flat because the scores of ornaments and mementoes, already populating every level surface, will have invaded all corners of the carpet.

There is even a piano on Slade's piano, but it is a miniature reproduction of the one in the 1954 show, which in its day was the longest running musical in the world, outlasting New York's *Okla-homa!* and London's *Chu-Chin-Chow* and *The Boy Friend*, the other home-grown, tune-packed musical of the period.

The story behind the show also has more than a touch of theatrical magic: a production planned to last three weeks at

the Bristol Old Vic transfers to London and runs for six years. "I was their resident composer," Slade explains, "writing incidental music for the productions, and I had collaborated with Dorothy, who was a member of the company, on two Christmas shows, which had been pretty successful. So Denis Carey, who ran the Bristol Old Vic in those days, asked us to write a summer revue, and the first thing I wrote was *Cleopatra*."

"But after I'd written the number, Denis changed his mind. He thought it would be better to have a musical play, particularly as we now had a title. It was suggested to us by the barmaid at the theatre. The company had done *Antony and Cleopatra* as part of the spring season, and she had heard *Cleopatra* say, 'My salad days, when I was green in judgment'. When she told us she thought it would make a good title, we all said, 'Olive, you're a genius! Now we've just got to think what it's going to be about.'"

What he and Dorothy Reynolds created was a story of two people, just out of university, who are not sure what to do next. "We wanted to write a fun show for the existing company. But we were very conscious that there were a lot of young people around — and I was only 23 — who were

being pressurised by their families, and I'm sure that's where the first ideas came from. The idea of Timothy being pressurised to find himself something to do and Jane being pressurised to make a good marriage. They decide to solve this for her by marrying each other, because they've been bosom pals at university, and find a job which is nothing to do with their parents. Then in walks the tramp with the piano. He offers them £7 a week to look after it for a month. And the piano turns out to make everybody dance."

The original cast were virtually unknown outside their local audience, but Ned Sherrin's production offers two stars, Kit and the Widow. Kit Hesketh-Devereaux plays all Timothy's uncles, including Uncle Zed, who arrives on a flying saucer, and the man in

the dress-shop. "We've turned him into another uncle, so that's a slight change in the plot." The Widow, otherwise Richard Sisson, plays the non-speaking part of Troppo, the clown who guards the piano. Does he get the chance to play? "Oh, yes. That's the great difference in this production: the piano works. In the original the keyboard was a dummy and it was all mimed in the pit. And by some amazing chance, not only Richard but David Morton, who is the tramp, and Simon Connolly, who's Timothy, can also play the piano, and they do."

And suddenly everyone starts dancing. "Look at me! Oh, look at me!" Sometimes a magic piano is not needed if a tune is catchy enough.

● *Salad Days* opens on Thursday at the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 9987)



Julian Slade on *Salad Days*: "We were very conscious that there were a lot of young people around — and I was only 23 — who were being pressurised by their families, and I'm sure that's where the first ideas came from"

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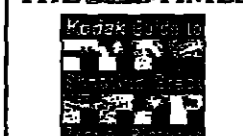
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THE TIMES



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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

BABY BISTROS: THE NEW FRENCH REVOLUTION

by Kate Muir

This is not just a crisis — this is a revolution," announces Claude Lebey, France's equivalent of Egon Ronay. As with the last French revolution, blood must be spilt, and lined up before the guillotine are the aristocrats of cuisine, the grand chefs of Paris.

M Lebey, the Robespierre of gastronomy, is storming the *ancien régime* of restaurants stiff with etiquette and obscenely priced. He is leading the countercharge of the baby bistros — small restaurants opened in the 1990s by fine chefs — which are winning custom with their moderate prices and innovative cooking. While many of France's prestigious restaurants lie half-empty, the modern bistros have two-week waiting lists.

All around, the grand stars of the *Michelin Guide* are falling. Pierre Gagnaire's three-star restaurant in St Etienne was forced to close last month through lack of custom. La Tour d'Argent — a Paris landmark overlooking Notre Dame since 1582 — lost its third Michelin star last week. The chefs of La Tour d'Argent and the two-star Crillon are being investigated in a bribery scandal. Worst of all, the renowned Maxim's was demoted by the *Gault-Millau Paris Guide* from four toques (chef's hats) in its heyday to *none at all*.

Haute cuisine is suffering from a mouldering malaise. Food critics such as M Lebey say culinary excess and the days of "Let them eat cake" are over. The people have had enough cake and want bread, preferably wholemeal and at sensible prices.

M Lebey's guides to restaurants and bistros are to Paris what the *Zagat* guide is to New York — indispensable and direct — or the *Michelin Guide* in this country. M Lebey himself is very much a gentleman, prone to properly long socks and well-cut jackets. He operates from an office overlooking the Parc Monceau, supplied with fine paintings and strong espresso. He is, without doubt, a man of discerning tastes.

His words can seal a restaurant's fate, either way. His present philosophy is this: "There was a golden age of restaurants in France when people went to eat well without even thinking of the price. Now they have become money-conscious like the Americans, and today there is no place for restaurants costing £60 to £100 a head. A few of the great three-star restaurants costing about £130 pounds a head will survive, as not just a culinary but a dramatic experience like going to the theatre, but that's it."

The symbolic battleground of the revolution is Maxim's, probably Paris's — and the world's — most famous restaurant. It opened on the Rue Royale in 1893 to cater to hansom cab drivers waiting on the nearby Place de la Concorde. A waiter called Maxim took over the business and turned the restaurant into the essential schmoozing and dining place for the aristocracy and the demi-monde.

Maxim's Art Nouveau wood panelling, stained glass ceilings and inlaid brass clocks surround banquettes previously occupied by Edward VII, Maria Callas (very fond of the *por-au-feu*), the Duke and Duchess of Windsor (who ordered their game rare), Aristotle Onassis and Charlie Chaplin, the only man allowed entry without proper evening dress. The specialities were turtle

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A development of the old school

Desks are replaced
by sofas as
classrooms are
transformed

There wasn't much to see when Crena Watson, a fashion photographer, walked through the door of her new flat: no walls, kitchen, bathroom or central heating, just 4,000 sq ft of space in south London.

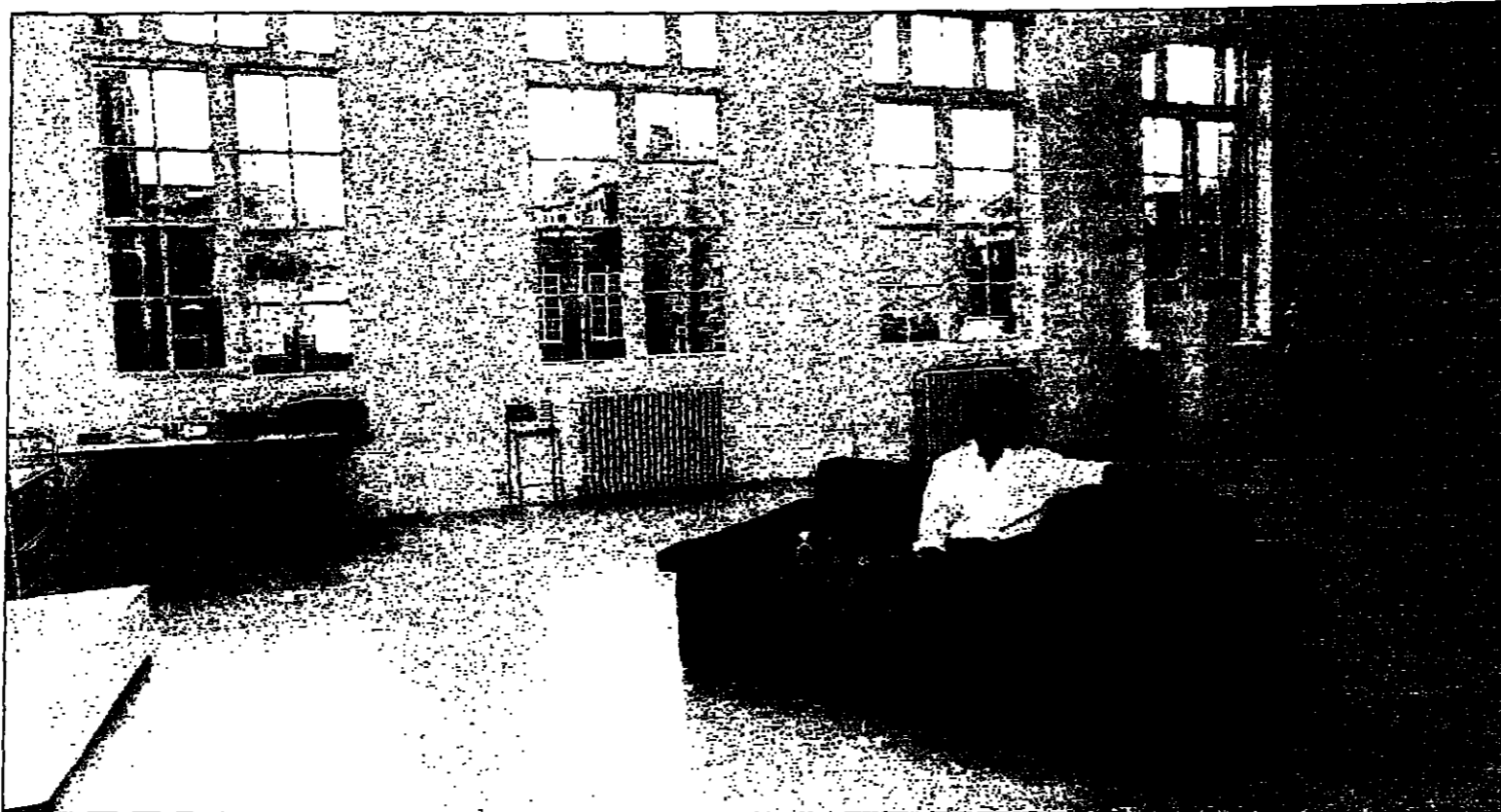
Inside, apart from the size and shape of the windows, there was little to suggest that she now owned the former gymnasium and two classrooms of Lavender Hill School in Wandsworth. She bought the first floor flat a year ago and spent three months converting it into a 25ft by 17ft living room, a huge bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and a studio with a mezzanine floor for an office and darkroom. At one time there were 16 builders there.

Redundant schools can make homes of character, Rob Dark, an architect and conservationist, says: "Old schools are usually well built. The brickwork, joinery and decorative features are of a high standard and you can create an attractive environment and get more space for your money than in many modern houses."

Mr Dark also points out that schools are generally well located within the local community, close to shops and stations.

Lavender Hill was one of 500 schools built in the capital by the London School Board between 1870 and 1904. About 300 survive. Local school boards, which were found all over the country, were elected by ratepayers to provide elementary education for the poor.

English Heritage, mindful that architectural history could be lost by closure and demolition, is researching the history of board



Crena Watson in the living room of the flat she created from a shell. The windows are the only due to the building's former life as a school.

schools with a view to adding to the 43 listed nationwide. "Most are still in educational use. Listing can't keep them open but it can ensure that any future conversion is done sympathetically," says Elaine Harwood, an English Heritage historian.

Lavender Hill School — which is not listed — ended its days in the hands of the Inner London Education Authority as offices and a centre for adult education. Wandsworth council, which took it over in 1990, sold the 1.5 acre site two years ago to the developers Sapcote for £1,306,000. Sapcote turned the school, renamed The Village, into 30 flats and sold them for £145,000-£400,000 each. A

book on school developments, *Beacons of Learning*, published last year by SAVE Britain's Heritage, describes The Village as a "shining example of enlightened entrepreneurial conservation".

"What people are buying is a shell," says Ashley Nicholson, a director of Sapcote. "It's up to the occupier to do what they like with the place. Every one is different." He estimates that conversion costs would be between £20,000 and £50,000.

Rob and Barbara Hunter fell in love with a shell of a building too, only theirs was a village school in Cumbria built in 1874. The school, with one high ceilinged room for juniors and one for infants, was closed in 1988 because of falling numbers.

The couple put in a successful sealed bid to Cumbria County Council. "The planning authorities in the Lake District National Park stipulated that the outside

had to stay as near as possible to the original," Mr Hunter says.

Inside, the school has been transformed, although with deference to its character and age. Eighteen months of work produced five bedrooms, a kitchen, a sitting room on a mezzanine floor and a dining room. "We wanted to keep the feeling of space. There's no point in buying a building like this and splitting it into small boxes," says Mrs Hunter, who did not want to disclose the cost.

The couple's advice to anyone considering such a conversion is to choose an architect who is sensitive to the building. Emma Phillips at SAVE agrees: "If the building is converted, then carrying out a good scheme which retains the overall feeling is of prime importance. You should work with an architect who's had experience of historic buildings." She estimates conversion costs of village schools to be £50,000 upwards.

Over the past 12 years 350 small rural schools have closed in England. Other educational or community uses can often be found for them so by no means all end up as homes.

The organisation ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is in the middle of piloting a scheme

in five counties (Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Essex and Cheshire) to encourage greater community use of small schools.

A number of converted schools are at present on the market. The Old School House at Rushford, near Thetford in Norfolk is for sale at £195,000 (Savills, 01473 226191) and there is the Old National School at Sampford Spiney, Yelverton, Devon (Strutt Parker, 01392 215631). Offers over £150,000.

Meanwhile Sapcote has just started the conversion of Latchmere Primary School in Wandsworth, for which the company paid £2.25 million. The buildings will be converted into 25 shell flats and eight houses, and 16 new, fully-fitted houses will be built in the grounds. Prices will range from £100,000 to £400,000.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

● *Beacons of Learning* is available from SAVE Britain's Heritage, 65 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3JX. £11.50 (0171) 228 3336.

● *ACRE, Somerset Court*, Somerset Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL3 1TW (01285 653471).

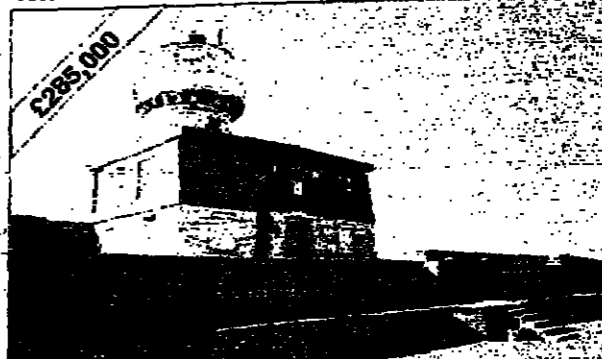
● *Sapcote*: 6 Tideway Yard, 125 Mortlake High Street, London SW14 8SN (sales line, 24 hours, 0171 457 3578).

FOR SALE

OUT OF THE ORDINARY



WILTSHIRE
Forest Hill Lodge, Marlborough. A building plot of 1.45 acres with a Grade II listed 19th-century lodge house arranged as a separate, five-bedroom cottage. There is planning consent for a separate, five-bedroom house. About £180,000 (Hamptons, 01752 616256).

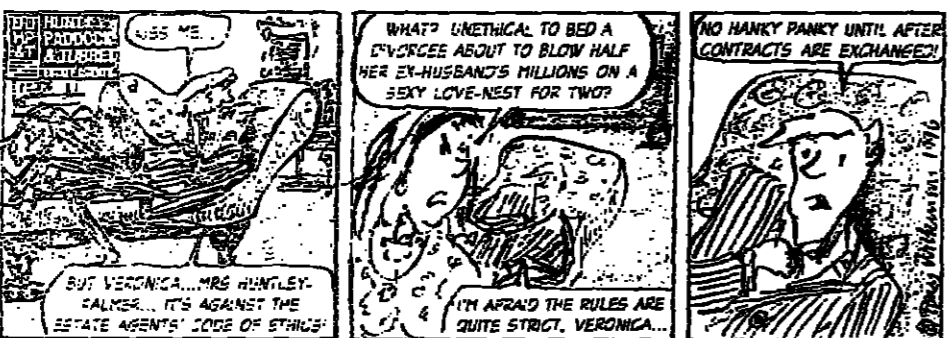


EAST SUSSEX
Belle Tout Lighthouse, Birling Gap Road, Beachy Head, near Eastbourne. Former lighthouse, with spectacular views over the Sussex coastline, featured in the BBC series *Life and Loves of a She Devil*. Four bedrooms, circular bathroom, 20ft recording room, kitchen, two tower rooms, observation room. Two garages. Terraced gardens. About £285,000 (Fox & Sons, 01323 410911).



LONDON
The Artesian Well, 19 Artur Road, Wimbledon, SW18. Converted 18th-century artesian well house with garden. Two bedrooms, bathroom, dormer studio/reception room, dining room, kitchen and cloakroom. About £375,000 (Hamptons, 0181 946 0081).

CHERYL TAYLOR



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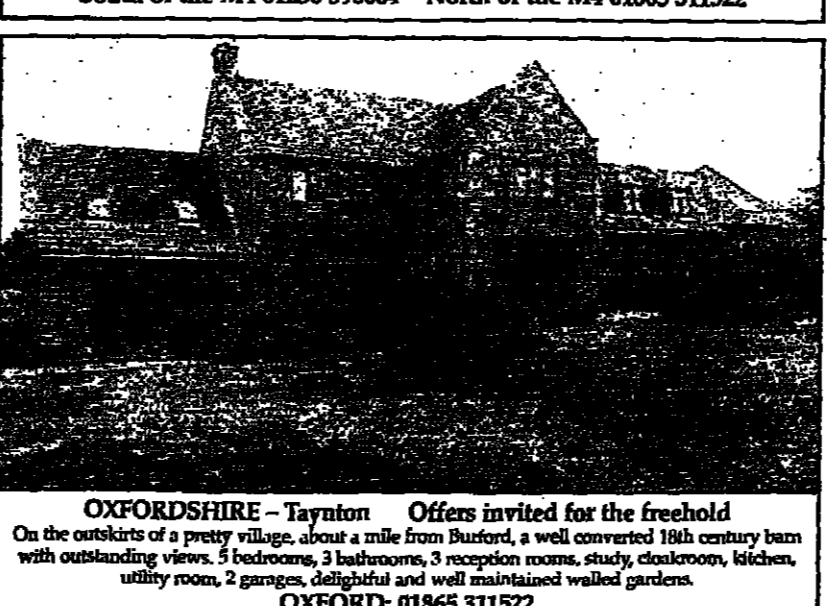


OXFORDSHIRE - Cote Price Guide: £295,000
With grounds of about 1.38 ha (3.4 acres), a listed farmhouse in a pleasant, quiet, village location. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, former dairy, conservatory, cloakroom. Double garage, outbuildings, gardens and paddock.
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OXFORDSHIRE - Taynton Offers invited for the freehold
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OXFORD: 01865 311522

BERKSHIRE
Old Hayward
Bottom

Near Hungerford, a charming cottage in a rural position with views over open farmland. 4 beds, bath, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, cknm, cellar, double garage, outbuilding, gardens of about 0.5 ha (0.75 acre).

Price Guide:
£260,000

NEWBURY:
01635 523225

HAMPSHIRE
Emsworth

By Chichester Harbour, an impressive listed Georgian house with private dock. 6 beds, 3 baths, 3 recep, 1/2 fast rm, conservatory, dble garage, pool rm, swimming pool, charming walled garden.

JSA: Henry Adams & Pons 01243 53377.

Price Guide:
£385,000

HEAD OFFICE:
0171-493 4106

HAMPSHIRE
Over Wallop

About 7 miles from Andover, with entrance to the Wallop Brook, an attractive 17th century cottage, listed Grade II. 3 beds, bathroom, cknm, reception, study, kitchen/dining rm, parking, principally walled gardens.

Price Guide:
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Near Badminton

Near the Badminton Estate, surrounded by glorious countryside, an attractive 18th century farmhouse. Grade II listed and well presented. 5 beds, 2 baths, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, utility rm, coach house, garden.

Price Guide:
£275,000

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سفرات

Spain: the haunting beauty of the Alhambra palace and a dead poet's society make Granada unforgettable

Echoes of the Moors' last sigh



The magnificent Alhambra palace sits on a lofty spur beneath the Sierra Nevada surrounded by lush gardens. Inside it is a treasure house of exquisite Moorish decorative arts

FACT FILE

■ The author flew to Spain as a guest of Iberia (0171-830 001). Return fare for the London-Granada flight (via Madrid or Barcelona) is from £169, plus £5 tax.

■ In Granada he stayed at the three-star Hotel Guadalupe (00 34 58 223423) as a guest of Travellers' Way (01527 836791). The hotel, adjacent to the Alhambra, offers a double room with breakfast at about £57, plus 7 per cent VAT. Even closer to the Alhambra is the Moorish-style Alhambra Palace (00 34 58 22 14 66), where B&B costs about £97, plus VAT. There is also the pricier Parador de San Francisco, a former monastery, within the Alhambra walls (00 34 58 22 14 40), or via Keytel on 0171-402 8182. At the foot of the Albaicin, is the Hotel Triunfo (00 34 58 20 74 44), with B&B from about £57, plus VAT.

■ One of the best restaurants, serving typical Granada cuisine with a distinct Arabic touch, is the Mirador de Morayma in the Albaicin. In the not-too-fancy category is the Meson Andaluz, Calle Elvira 10.

■ Spanish National Tourist Office, 57 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LD (0171-499 0901).



We were going to Granada to visit the Alhambra when Federico Garcia Lorca detained us on the way. "Stop," my wife said, scanning the map. "I think he was born over there, in Fuentes Vaqueros."

I pulled off the motorway, leaving the world of whizzing lorries and mighty petrol tankers, and moved into a zone of unexpected rurality. Donkey and mule carts were bringing home fodder for the animals; long streamers of tobacco leaf hung drying in barns; dense groves of poplar swayed in the brisk wind.

It was into this agricultural scene that Lorca, the poet and dramatist, was born in 1898. He was shot dead at the age of 38, in 1936, at the height of his powers in an "execution" by Nationalist thugs in the opening days of the Spanish Civil War.

The Lorca family house in Fuentes Vaqueros, about nine miles west of Granada, is now a museum and the village school is called the Colegio Publico Federico Garcia Lorca. All is as it should be. But it is for the imposing Alhambra, rather than Lorca's work, that the richness of the garden valley, the vega, is best known.

The Alhambra sits on a defensible spur beneath the lofty Sierra Nevada, lording it over the plains. Inside, it is a treasure house of Moorish decorative arts, with arabesques of seemingly infinite patterns, exquisite ceilings and wall tiles, bound together by an architecture so delicately contrived that the palace



The tiled interior of the Alhambra's Casa Real

seems to float in a state of weightlessness. All of it was based on agricultural wealth, not only the Palatine city on the spur but the more humble city below where ordinary people lived.

Water was essential to agriculture and the Moors were brilliant irrigators and managers of water, so it comes as no surprise that water is a central element of the Alhambra. You feel its presence everywhere, from the Generalife gardens above, with their long, axial pool, down to the Courtyard of the Lions, where water runs in four channels from delicate, pillared pavilions, to symbolise the rivers of paradise, and the long, dark pool of the Courtyard of Myrtles, where at night the sultans could see the reflection of their palace and the glimmering stars. Water meant

power as well as beauty and fascination.

There is so much to see at the Alhambra that no matter how many times you go there, no matter how crowded it may be, the reaction is open-mouthed wonder and delight.

There is a magnificent view of the palace from the hill opposite, the Albaicin, which also qualifies for five-star rating. From this ancient residential quarter, Arabic then Christian, with its narrow lanes and a mass of hidden gardens, you look across at the rough red of the external walls of the Alhambra and see it, suddenly, as the fortress that it was, as well as pleasure palace and centre of power. None of which, of course, should distract you from the less-visited city of Granada below. Some

find this city melancholy, perhaps because of the historical record. In 1492 Ferdinand and Isabel, the king and queen of Aragon and Castile, captured Granada and put an end to Moorish rule in Spain.

Christian Granada seems to be quite jolly as well as somewhat sad, its moods exemplified by the great number of students at university and language schools, and the presence of the bourgeoisie, so prominent a feature of Lorca's city. If you want, you can sit in the smarter cafes alongside women in fur coats, or join the younger throng in the tapas bars around the Plaza Nueva — at the Trastienda (Behind the Shop), for instance, in adjoining Plaza de Cuchilleros, where you squeeze past a counter selling mountain ham and cheese and take a tiny table in the back; or the rougher, readier Casa Julio across the way at Calle Hermosa, where the speciality is fried anchovies and discs of aubergine. There's also a little street called Calderia Nueva, full of Moroccan cafes serving honeyed cakes and endless varieties of tea in tiny glasses.

If your cultural appetite is not yet satisfied there is the Capilla Real, or Royal Chapel, where Ferdinand and Isabel are buried, under a soaring roof in Isabelline Gothic. Then there is the Charterhouse, a byword for Baroque excess. And the former Hieronymite monastery, now inhabited by nuns of a closed order, its cloister full of Renaissance doorways, its church lined with 18th-century frescoes. We paid a visit one evening and

stood enchanted in the cloister, among sweet-smelling orange trees, while the invisible nuns sang in their closed chapel, their voices rising thin as those of schoolgirls.

Since last year there has been something extra in Granada, an addition for those with an interest in that powerful local talisman, Federico Garcia Lorca. When the Lorca family finally moved from the

vega into a town apartment, they kept a little "country house" about ten minutes' walk away on the city's edge. Here they would spend the summers and, in his simple bedroom overlooking roses and cypress trees, Lorca wrote many of his finest poems and several of his plays. The house, now surrounded by a municipal-style park and close to a motorway-style bypass, has

just been opened to the public, with Lorca's niece, Laura Garcia-Lorca, as director. Furnished with its original contents — including a tablecloth embroidered in traditional patterns by Lorca's mother — it is a perfectly preserved Spanish interior of the 1930s and 1930s.

Considering the poet's fate, and the beauty of the verses that he wrote here, there is

nowhere in the city — except for the Alhambra — and the memory of its vanquished princes — that better signifies Granada's bitter-sweet cocktail of sadness and delight.

"Many Spanish visitors cannot enter my uncle's bedroom," Laura Garcia-Lorca told us. "They just stand on the threshold and weep."

ADAM HOPKINS

Homes that are as old as the hills

WEST from Granada, an hour or so beyond the place of Lorca's death, you reach cave country — inhabited by troglodytes, Adam Hopkins writes.

Dug into the base of huge clay riverbanks or hills of the same hard clay, these dwellings have as many as eight or ten rooms to accommodate a sprawling family. The rooms all run into one another or are reached by little tunnels, brilliantly whitewashed like the interiors of other Andalusian houses.

Because of the constant year-round temperature of 20F they make comfortable homes, and if you put your kitchen and bathroom on the front, where you will probably have windows in the clay facade, problems of condensation are

minimal. These days, too, all the homes have running water and electricity.

Sadly, the caves fell out of favour during the 1960s and most of those who could afford to moved into apartment blocks, leaving behind many empty caves, and some in the hands of the poor.

Enter the Martinez family, building constructors from the strange city of Guadix, capital of cave country. The family has bought a neighbourhood of hillside caves and converted 30 of them into a hotel complex — the Cuevas Pedro Antonio de Alarcon (named after the local man who wrote the tale of the three-cornered hat, source book for Manuel de Falla's opera). Rooms have been dug out and made much bigger. The wooden

furniture is painted, local-style, like gypsy waggons. There's a cave dining room serving local dishes and, if it wasn't for a motorway running in the valley beneath, it would be a troglodytic idyll.

The hotel opened late last year and I was the first foreign visitor. I'd go back like a shot for the extraordinary landscape of eroded clay and the pleasure of sleeping inside a hill with its views of the Sierra Nevada.

I predict a fashionable future for the caves of the Guadix hinterland.

● Book via Andalusian Charming Hotels (00 34 5 2445591). Cave with two double rooms and kitchen/living room from about £40. Further information: Spanish National Tourist Office (0171-499 0901).

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PAGES 16, 17



PALACES IN PERU
Slow train to the Lost City; traveller's guide to Peru
PAGE 18

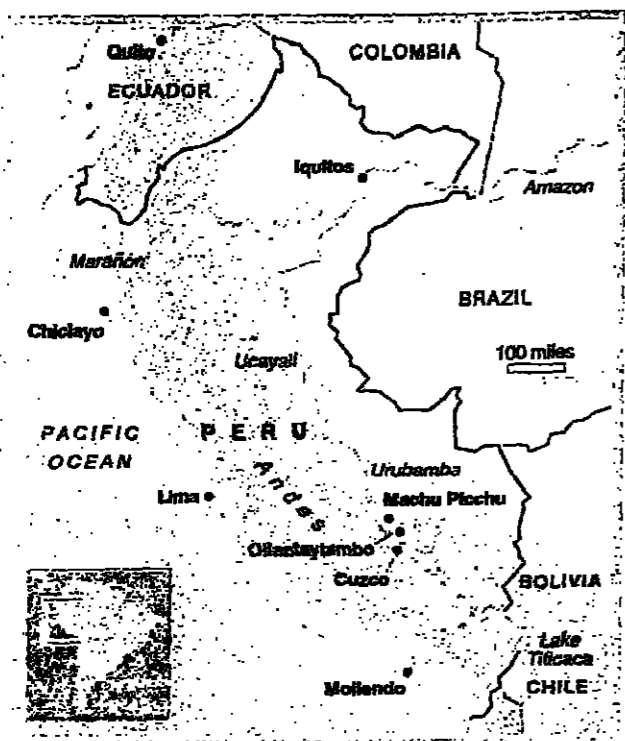


ACTIVE BREAKS
Gliding for beginners; reading as a holiday
PAGE 19

PLUS TRAVEL TIPS AND SUBSIDIES PAGE 21

Peru: on the trail of the Incas, master masons whose Lost City is perfectly preserved high in the mountains

Exploring the eighth wonder of the world



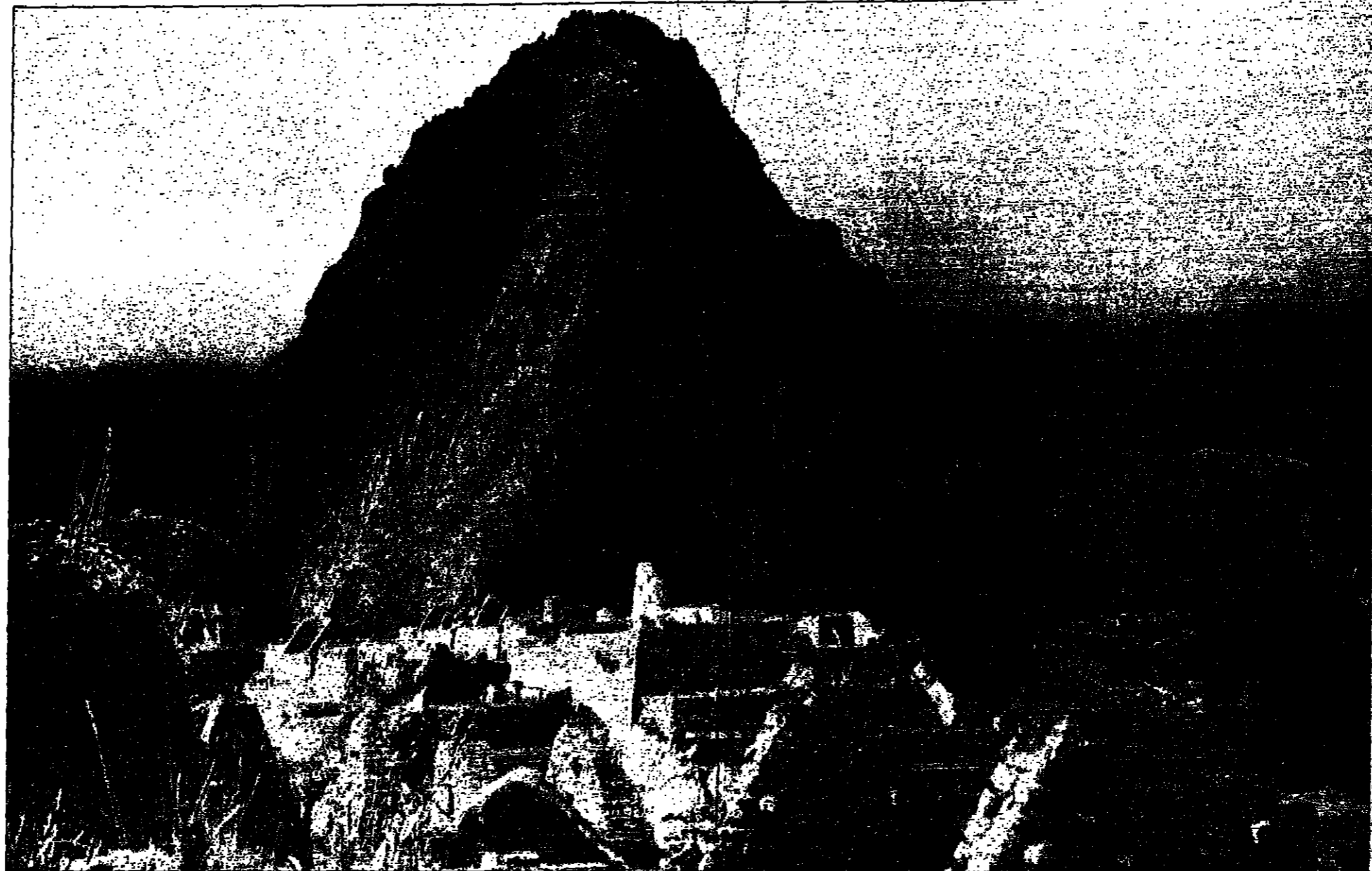
Two things about Peru are inescapable — the awe-inspiring peaks of the Andes and a dysfunctional past.

From the Cuzco Valley, high in the Cordillera, the Incas ruled an empire stretching from what is now Colombia to central Chile. It was a complex, advanced society until Francisco Pizarro arrived in 1532 at the head of a Spanish army. Emperor Atahualpa, radiant in gold befitting his descent from the Sun, came to meet him in peace. Instead, he was seized by the *Conquistadores* and his execution marked the beginning of three centuries of domination by Spain.

Pizarro's perfidy is still spoken of as if it happened yesterday and there are visible tensions between the native Indians and those of Spanish descent. The slaughter of the Indians was on a genocidal scale and their descendants

show grim satisfaction when they point out Pizarro's remains, displayed in a plain coffin in Lima Cathedral with a separate box for his head. The unfortunate man was assassinated by natives in 1541. The conquest took 30 years of bloody fighting. A rebellion failed in 1572 and the last rising was as late as 1780, not long before the 19th-century war of liberation from Spain.

Cuzco city is an hour's flight from Lima. The Spanish destroyed the Inca capital but built their own churches and palaces on the same foundations. Thus a Dominican friary stands on the remains of the Temple of the Sun, and there are walls of Inca stonework, each massive block crafted to perfection, shoring up supermarkets and discos in side alleys. The Incas were master masons but never discovered either the wheel or writing, so there are no histori-



The atmospheric Machu Picchu, the Lost City, was abandoned by the Incas before the Spanish arrived. The complex contains immaculate temples, palaces and houses

cal records and much of their way of living remains a mystery. Outside Cuzco, the valley is littered with more substantial Inca remains: temples, baths, aqueducts and the towering fortress at Ollantaytambo. The most dramatic site is Machu Picchu, the Lost City mythologised as the El Dorado of the Andes. It stands on a small plateau, surrounded by mountains swirling in cloud, and has been abandoned since before the Spanish came. No one knows why.

As a result, Machu Picchu was not destroyed by Pizarro and remained lost until archaeologist Hiram Bingham stumbled on it in 1911. Now it is Peru's premier attraction: a stunning complex of perfectly preserved temples, palaces and neat houses. Their thatched roofs have gone, but otherwise the Incas might have moved out last year.

In the main temple, the altar is carved with a human outline, and there is a drain at its feet for sacrificial blood. Perhaps the offering had the right effect for the atmosphere is magically peaceful, particularly at sunrise: a place of deep stillness, broken only by the rush of the river below. For impact, it matches the Taj Mahal or the Pyramids.

To get there involves a three-hour journey from Cuzco by tourist train with an armed police guard (the government is still nervous about the remnants of the Shining Path guerrillas). At the end, a four-mile track zigzags up the mountainside — minibuses charge £1.30 for the journey, admission to the site is £6.60.

An alternative approach is the slower local train to a halfway point and then the Inca Trail through the mountains. But this is serious walking at high altitude, three days carrying your tent and food.

The Machu Picchu Ruins Hotel is right by the site — and expensive at £115 a night for a double. But there are plenty of cheap places to stay at Aguas Calientes, 2km back down the

railway, and there is a campsite by the station. Leaving aside the Inca legacy, life in the villages and countryside is picturesque but painfully poor — often mud-brick shacks with no electricity, running water or sanitation. The grazing llama and alpaca have a melancholy look, but their owners, wrapped in traditional rainbow-coloured ponchos, are friendly. Their markets are a good place to buy an alpaca blanket or sweater.

International flights mostly go to Lima, founded by Pizarro on the narrowest of coastal

visible in churches on every corner, a vast Franciscan monastery and the austere cathedral on Plaza de Armas.

If you have time for only one museum, Enriquez is your man. Mr Pol arrived from Italy 47 years ago and has never returned. His private collection includes artefacts dating as far back as 300 BC — magnificent gold from the Inca period and later religious art.

The collection is housed in his home at Lord Cochran 466 in the suburb of Miraflores. Admission is by appointment (phone 4222437) and for £6.50 he shows you round personally.

Eating out is inexpensive and can be excellent: broadly Spanish with some spicy local dishes. Dinner with wine at a local restaurant in the Cuzco valley costs £4 a head, while eating under the stars at La Ermita in Lima's Barranco equals the best of Mediterranean seafood and atmosphere, for about £12.

Peru is not for the faint-hearted. Transport can be head-bangingly unreliable, and theft on the streets is rife in Lima, as is drug-pushing. But you can minimise problems by carrying your money in a body-belt and keeping on the beaten track.

Some, not always young, travellers backpack and see the country cheaply using buses. Haulage trucks also pick up passengers for a few Soles. A double room for a night in a pension costs about £4.50. For more comfort and predictability, it is best to arrange a package, covering flight, accommodation and internal travel through a specialist operator such as Journey Latin America or Kuoni.

MICHAEL HARTLAND



Young boys celebrate a religious festival in Cuzco.

FACT FILE ON PERU

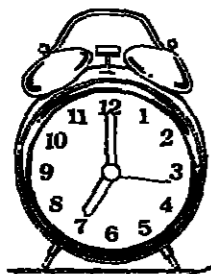
- The author was a guest of KLM and Journey Latin America.
- Flight only: KLM flies from Heathrow and 13 regional airports, via Amsterdam, to Lima. Booked through Journey Latin America from £545 (June-September 1995) 0481-747 3108.
- Packages: Journey Latin America, 14-15 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD (0181-747 8315). 12 days including flights from £1,542. Kuoni Travel, Dorking, Surrey RH45 4AZ (01306 740888). 15 days including flights from £1,976. Bales Tours, Junction Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3HB (01306 885991). 16 days including flights from £2,399.
- As Peru is just south of the Equator, the only significant climatic difference is between the wet and dry seasons. The dry season (May to September) is obviously best for walking or trekking in the Andes.
- Useful reading: the *Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit* for Peru, price £8.95.
- Health: vaccination for typhoid and, in some areas, malaria protection — consult your GP.

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'Life in the
villages is
picturesque but
painfully poor —
mud shacks with
no sanitation'

plains as a port for the new province. It is home to about seven million — a third of Peru's population. Few have paid jobs: there are miles of shantytowns and incessant street peddling. The older parts are beautiful and very Spanish, with laid-back bars, pavement cafés and a vibrant night life. The Pacific breaks on palm-shaded beaches.

The past is preserved in the Museo de Antropología y Arqueología and other national museums, often with free admission. The building occupied by the Spanish Inquisition from 1570 to 1820 is also on display, with gruesome waxworks of heretics being racked and roasted. Three centuries of Catholicism are

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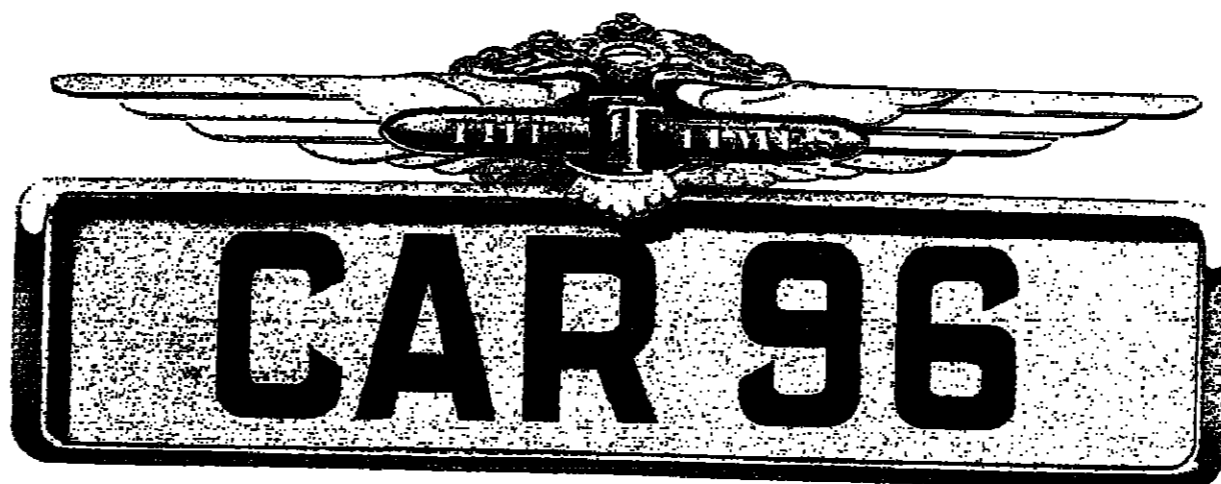
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My other transport is the MGF with wings

Page 8



Tracing the tyre tracks of motoring history

Page 3



SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

This thing is bigger than both of us

For Marlboro Man, the Dodge Ram is fine. But Kevin Eason found it a little on the large side

There was only one way to end the squeal of rubber as the tyres scrubbed against the narrow kerbs: I turned the stereo up. After all, what is a man to do when he is trying to get a pick-up truck more than 7ft 9ins wide through a road less than 8ft across?

Exactly. Here was I detailed to test a vehicle normally driven by Marlboro Man and I had to get from one end of London to the other. I get streets built for Dinky toys. Marlboro Man had the whole of Arizona to go at.

This was like trying to squeeze the toothpaste back into the tube, only noisier... and in front of a bemused audience, for the Dodge Ram is not exactly a shy and retiring little vehicle, the sort you can discreetly park and walk away without anyone noticing. Park the Ram and most of the city knows about it: mothers send their children out to watch because it could be more entertaining than Power Rangers, more informative than Blue Peter, office workers take their tea breaks around its arrival and even traffic wardens send back to base for extra ink just in case they get the chance to write their all-time biggest ticket.

We are talking American here, as in BIG... VERY, VERY BIG; the sort of vehicle that takes a city block to turn and generates enough power to put the Space Shuttle into orbit. The mouthful of name badges said it all: this was a Dodge Ram 3500 V10 Magnum Laramie 3LT. You would need a long vehicle just to accommodate that much sticker space — and I had the Dodge Ram, which was not just as wide as the Grand Canyon, but 18½ft long and the best part of 7ft tall, counting the array of four floodlights on top of the cab.

There is no way the Ram would go into our local NCP, entertain a parking spot unless it was for two normal-sized vehicles or negotiate ordinary streets where a man on a bike becomes a major obstruction.

And under that bonnet was no clattering diesel, just an 8-litre V10 with 300 brake horse power — the equivalent of roping together three Escorts and lashing them to the giant red bodywork.

The Ram was built for the Great Outdoors, for the open skies and the long, straight roads of the mid-West — not the one-way system through Watford and the tortuous entrance to Sainsbury's car park.

Americans adore the Ram — in fact, they love all kinds of pick-ups. Pick-up trucks account for three of the five best-selling vehicles in the US this year. Number one in the sales charts is the Ford F-series, followed by the Chevrolet CK with the Dodge Ram at number five. Ford has sold 314,000



Rambo: the Dodge Ram 3500 V10 Magnum Laramie 3LT — crazy name, crazy car — generates enough power to put the Space Shuttle into orbit, but in a London street a man on a bike becomes a major obstruction

DODGE RAM
Price: £21,710.
Engine: Eight-litre, 20-valve V10, for 300bhp at 4,000rpm, 5-speed gearbox, 4-wheel-drive/low-ratio gearbox.
Performance: 0-60mph in about 8.5 seconds, top speed 112mph.
Fuel economy: There isn't any.
Equipment: Superlative stereo, cruise control, driver's airbag and enough lamps to floodlight Old Trafford.



but Rawlinson's words, seared into my brain, fired me into reality like a shot from Colt 45: "Normally we say a vehicle can be replaced, it's the occupants that matter, but with the Ram we are willing to make an exception." Guilt.

A press of the throttle and the Ram surged forward, bouncing on its long suspension struts like a speedboat nosing into the waves. But the power came smoothly, pushing the huge truck into the rear view mirrors of drivers ahead who must have thought they were being trailed by Smokey and the Bandit.

All I needed now was the cactus and the red mountains, so I could pull up and survey the desert like Marlboro Man, grey smoke spiralling from the tip of my cigarette, my eyes squinting against the glare of the bright sun.

Actually I pulled my hat down against the drizzle as I parked against the hillocks of Hertfordshire and unwrapped a toffee. Maybe I should face the fact I'm just not cut out to be a Ram driver...

cars in the US this year but 488,000 pick-ups, and the story is the same for Dodge: 108,422 cars compared with 214,000 pick-ups, all hard-charging Rams. Compare that with little old Britain where the diminutive Ford Escort tops the sales charts followed by the tiny tot Fiesta.

But, according to the latest wisdom, Britain is ready for a new craze, a sales void which pick-ups like the Ram are ready to fill. Saloons begat hatchbacks which begat GTIs, then 4x4s and people movers, the latest Fad of the Day. Pick-ups could be next.

Peter Rawlinson, British public relations director for Chrysler, which owns Dodge, says: "Who knows? We would love to sell a vehicle like the Ram, and we have already had people ringing to try to buy this one. Pick-ups have been big in the US for a long time and it could be that the drivers who want leisure vehicles but want a change from the usual 4x4 or people mover might want to try a pick-up." Maybe... if it was just a

little smaller. I mean, I approached the Ram in the best spirit, deciding to go native with the Marlboro Man look to fit the Marlboro Man's pick-up. I held my breath to get into a pair of tight blue jeans, put on a neat, checked lumberjack shirt and topped off with the 10-gallon hat and intimidating shades. Climbing the 2½ft on to the steel running board to get into the cab wearing the

tight jeans was a bit of a challenge (was Marlboro Man rendered impotent by his Levis, I wonder), but once inside, the cabin — designed by Brit Trevor Creed — had plenty of hat room.

There might only be a cosy three-bench seat, but the steering wheel was as familiar as a car's, with buttons for cruise control, while the stereo was better than the one in my living room. The manual gear shift was straight from a truck though and the gearing on first so low that I never used it. Town running usually needed only second or third, so great was the torque from the engine that comes straight out of Dodge's legendary Viper sports car.

All that power — and that sheer size... Yeeh hah! (If I might quote the words of Clint

Eastwood, a popular character actor in films of the Wild West genre.) He would have whipped his saddle and kicked his spurs as the Ram left a trail of dust across the desert; I was off down the Holloway Road, and I started with the warnings of Rawlinson and his Chrysler crew ringing in my ears.

In the letter covering the loan of the vehicle, Rawlinson

made no bones about the fact that the Ram was a rarity in Britain and its power was not to be toyed with. "The cost of any abuse of the rear tyres will be passed to the journalist to whom the loan was made." I recalled as the Ram squeaked its way down that back lane behind the offices of *The Times*, rear wheels scrubbing along the narrow track.

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